THE INFINITY GAUNTLET™

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THE INFINITY GAUNTLET

OMNIBUS

COLLECTING **SILVER SURFER (1987) #34–38, #40** & **#44–60**; **THANOS QUEST #1–2**; **INFINITY GAUNTLET #1–6**; **CLOAK & DAGGER (1988) #18**; **SPIDER-MAN (1990) #17**; **INCREDIBLE HULK (1968) #383–385**; **QUASAR #26–27**; **DOCTOR STRANGE, SORCERER SUPREME #34–36**; **SLEEPWALKER #7**; AND MATERIAL FROM **DOCTOR STRANGE, SORCERER SUPREME #31–33**

WRITERS:

JIM STARLIN (SILVER SURFER #34–38, #40, #44–48, 50; THANOS QUEST #1–2; INFINITY GAUNTLET #1–6)
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DANN THOMAS (DOCTOR STRANGE, SORCERER SUPREME #31–36)
MARK GRUENWALD (QUASAR #26–27) • **BOB BUDIANSKY** (SLEEPWALKER #7)

PENCILERS:

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COVER ART:

GEORGE PÉREZ & JOHN D. STRACUZZI

VARIANT COVER ART:

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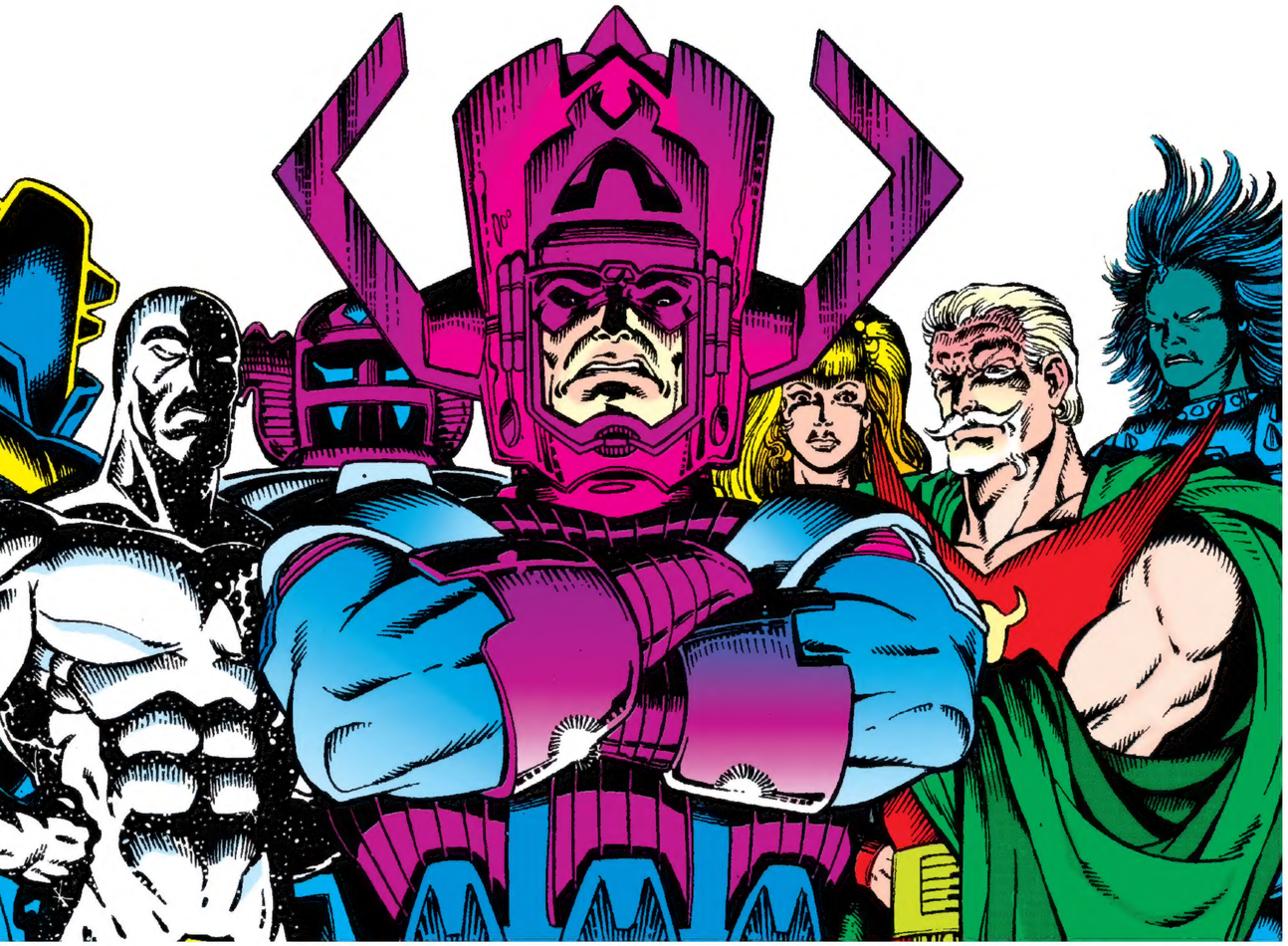

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THE SILVER SURFER®

1ST ISSUE OF A NEW ERA OF GREATNESS!

CALL HIM THANOS™, CALL HIM DEATH!

Stan Lee PRESENTS:

THE SILVER SURFER

HE DOESN'T KNOW WHY HE CHOSE TO COME TO THIS DESOLATE AND FORBIDDING PLANET. THE ASTRAL SKYRIDER IS TOO TIRED TO CARE.

PERHAPS HERE HE'LL FIND A RETREAT FROM THE CHAOS THAT HAS CONSUMED HIS EXISTENCE OF LATE.

SO MANY PROBLEMS, SO MANY BATTLES... IT'S BEEN SO TRYING.

MAYBE EVEN COSMIC HEROES NEED A LITTLE TIME FOR REST. MAYBE...

...Even Demigods Must Dream!

IT IS A LIFELESS WORLD WITHOUT A NAME.

BUT THE WEARY TRAVELER FINDS ITS BLEAK DUNES AND BARREN EXPANSES REFRESHINGLY TRANQUIL.

A CHANCE TO ESCAPE FROM ALL THE TROUBLES THAT PLAGUE HIM...

...THE DOUBTS THAT HAUNT HIM.

HERE IS A HIDEAWAY, WHERE A MAN CAN SORT OUT THE TANGLED WEAVINGS OF LIFE.

AND, WITH A LITTLE LUCK, GET SOME MUCH NEEDED REST.

HIS EXHAUSTION IS SO TOTAL THAT IT DOESN'T OCCUR TO HIM THAT IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE HE LAST SLEPT.

WHAT?

WHAT MADNESS IS THIS?

ITS ARCHITECTURE SMACKS OF *MEPHISTO'S* HADES.

YET, SOMEHOW, I *SENSE NOT* THAT VILLAIN'S HAND IN THIS MATTER.

FROM *WHERE* DID THIS STRANGELY OMINOUS STRUCTURE COME?

WHAT *PURPOSE* COULD SUCH AN EVIL-LOOKING DWELLING HAVE?

BUT THERE IS SOMETHING *DISTURBINGLY FAMILIAR* ABOUT THIS DARK PLACE.

DEJA VU? NO, THE FEELING IS MORE *PRIMAL* THAN THAT.

MINE IS A CORE REACTION, VERY *BASIC*.

AS BASIC AS LIFE AND DEATH.

HURRY!

WE MUST HURRY! SHE'S IN A TERRIBLE MOOD.

WHO?

THE MISTRESS WANTS THIS ONE *IMMEDIATELY.*

SHE'S BEEN IN SUCH A STATE EVER SINCE THAT ENCOUNTER WITH THE *IN-BETWEENER.**

THE IN-BETWEENER?

HATE TO EVEN GUESS AT WHAT SHE'S PLANNING.

*S.S.#17--CRAIG.

IT'LL PROBABLY BE SOMETHING *AWESOME.*

THEY DON'T SEEM TO EVEN NOTICE ME...

...THOSE ODD CREATURES PASSED ME BY WITHOUT BATTING AN EYE. *WHY?*

I DID *NOTHING* TO ELUDE DETECTION, AND THEY DON'T APPEAR TO BE *BLIND.*

THEIR LACK OF REACTION TO MY PRESENCE MAKES *NO SENSE.*

IT'S *UNNATURAL.* IN FACT, THAT'S THE WAY EVERY-THING ABOUT THIS PLACE FEELS.

UNNATURAL... UNREAL...

OF COURSE!

IT'S ALL A DREAM.

THERE I AM, STILL SLEEPING OUT BY MY BOARD.

HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE I LAST DREAMT?

WHY NOT GO WITH IT, SEE WHERE IT LEADS ME.

PERHAPS THIS IS SOMETHING I'VE BEEN *NEEDING*, WITHOUT EVEN REALIZING IT.

DREAMS...

IT IS SAID THAT DREAMS ARE BUT MUDDLED MESSAGES FROM THE SUB-CONSCIOUS, THE MOST INACCESSIBLE OF ALL REALMS.

HOW CAN AN EXPLORER OF THE HEAVENS DO ANYTHING BUT JUMP AT THE CHANCE TO PLUMB HIS OWN LONG UNCHARTED DEPTHS?

HE WONDERS WHAT THIS TREK INTO FANTASY WILL REVEAL ABOUT HIS HIDDEN SELF.

WITH A SHUDDER, THE GLEAMING HERO REALIZES JUST HOW LONG IT'S BEEN SINCE HE'S EVEN CONSIDERED THIS PART OF HIS BEING.

YET STILL HE GOES ON.

SHE SAYS TO OPEN THE CASKET.

NOW?

NOW!

SHE?

DEATH!

I STAND WITHIN THE HALL OF DEATH!

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN...

OPEN THE CHEST AND STEP BACK, RATTER.

YOU DON'T WANT TO GET TOO CLOSE TO THIS ONE.

HE'S MEAN AND HUNGRY.

I AM FREE!

FREE AT LAST!

IT'S SOMETHING LONG DEAD... A MALIGNANT SPIRIT...

...YES, *MALIGNANT*... NEVER HAVE I SENSED SUCH *DEPTHS OF DEPRAVITY!*

CAN THIS EXPERIENCE TRULY BE *NAUGHT* BUT A *DREAM?*

AND IF IT IS, DOES SOMETHING AS *BASE* AS THIS APPARITION RESIDE *WITHIN ME?*

HOW MAY THIS *HUMBLE SOUL* SERVE HIS *EBON MISTRESS?*

COMMAND AND I SHALL *OBEY!*

IN *LIFE*, YOU HONORED OUR MONARCH AS *NO OTHER* EVER DID. SHE IS IN NEED OF YOUR *SERVICES* ONCE AGAIN.

RECENT EVENTS HAVE CONVINCED *MISTRESS DEATH* THAT A SEVERE *IMBALANCE* EXISTS WITHIN THE UNIVERSE.

SHE FEARS THAT IF THIS CONDITION CONTINUES ON UNCHECKED, *EXISTENCE* AS IT IS NOW KNOWN MAY BE IN *PERIL.*

AND SO SHE CALLS UPON YOUR *UNIQUE TALENTS* TO REMEDY THE SITUATION.

EVEN IN *DEATH*, I *LIVE* ONLY TO DO THE *BLACK QUEEN'S* BIDDING.

LET THE *HEAVENS* RUN RED WITH *BLOOD!*

IF IT IS HER WISH, *PLANETS* SHALL *CRUMBLE!*

STARS WILL *NOVA*, AND ONLY *BLACK HOLES* SHALL REMAIN!

I WILL *SHATTER GALAXIES* TO REACH WHATEVER *GOAL* MY MISTRESS SETS!

SO SWEARS HER *GREATEST SLAVE*, THE ONCE AND AGAIN ALL-POWERFUL...

HOLD!

THIS *BRAGGART* HAS MADE SUCH *PROMISES* BEFORE AND *FAILED* TO DELIVER ON THEM!

BUT THAT WAS BEFORE HE STEPPED INTO THIS *SIDE* OF THE *VEIL*.

HIS *DEMISE* HAS RAISED HIM TO A *NEW PLATEAU*.

BUT MOST OF THOSE WHO *OPPOSED* HIM BEFORE ARE STILL ON THE *OTHER SIDE*.

HOW CAN HE HOPE TO BE *TRIUMPHANT* OVER THEM ALL?

HE *WON'T* HAVE TO. THE MISTRESS HAS GAZED INTO THE *MIST* AND HAS SEEN THIS ONE'S *FUTURE*.

THERE IS BUT *ONE OBSTACLE* TO *SUCCESS* HE NEED BEWARE, AND THAT IS...

...THE COSMIC BEING KNOWN AS THE SILVER SURFER!

THIS GLEAMING GNAT IS MY ADVERSARY?

THEY CAN SEE ME!

WHY, HE IS NOTHING!

LET HIM TASTE MY POWER!

"SELDOM HAVE I FELT SUCH *POWER.*

"NEVER HAVE I FELT SUCH *PAIN.*

"PAIN"?

CAN ONE...FEEL *PAIN* IN A DREAM?

I...I NEVER HAVE BEFORE...

...MUST... CLEAR MY HEAD...

SOMETHING'S... WRONG HERE...

...TERRIBLY WRONG...

...HAVE TO *THINK* IT OUT.

HAVE TO...

NO... IT CAN'T BE!

PEOPLE! ALIENS! HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF THEM FOR AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE.

WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?

WHAT ARE THEY DOING HERE?

A BETTER QUESTION MIGHT BE: WHAT ARE THEY ALL STARING AT?

CAN'T SEE THE FOREST FOR THE PEOPLE.

TO ME, MY BOARD!

THE INSANITY GROWS EVER DEEPER.

THE MULTITUDE SEEMS TO BE ENTRANCED BY THE SIGHT OF THAT STRANGE VOLCANO IF THAT'S WHAT IT TRULY IS.

LIKE SO MUCH IN THIS DREAM, IT DOES NOT APPEAR NATURAL TO MH EYE. IT LOOKS MAN-MADE.

WAIT! THERE'S SOMEONE STANDING ON THE CRATER'S EDGE.

IT'S A *WOMAN* HOLDING AN *INFANT.*

HOLDING? IT LOOKS MORE LIKE SHE'S...

NO!

"TOO LATE."

THE HEAT. THE FLAMES.

NAUGHT BUT I COULD SURVIVE THIS INFERNO.

WAIT!

IT'S THE CHILD!

A BURST OF RENEWED HOPE AND SPEED.

SALVATION.

IT'S UNBELIEVABLE!

THE BABE YET LIVES!

LET US BE AWAY FROM THIS HELLISH PLACE AND THESE MANIACS, MY LITTLE ONE.

DON'T CRY, CHILD. YOU'RE SAFE NOW.

I'LL NOT RETURN YOU TO THOSE LUNATICS.

SO YOUNG AND SO INNOCENT.

SO...

HUH?

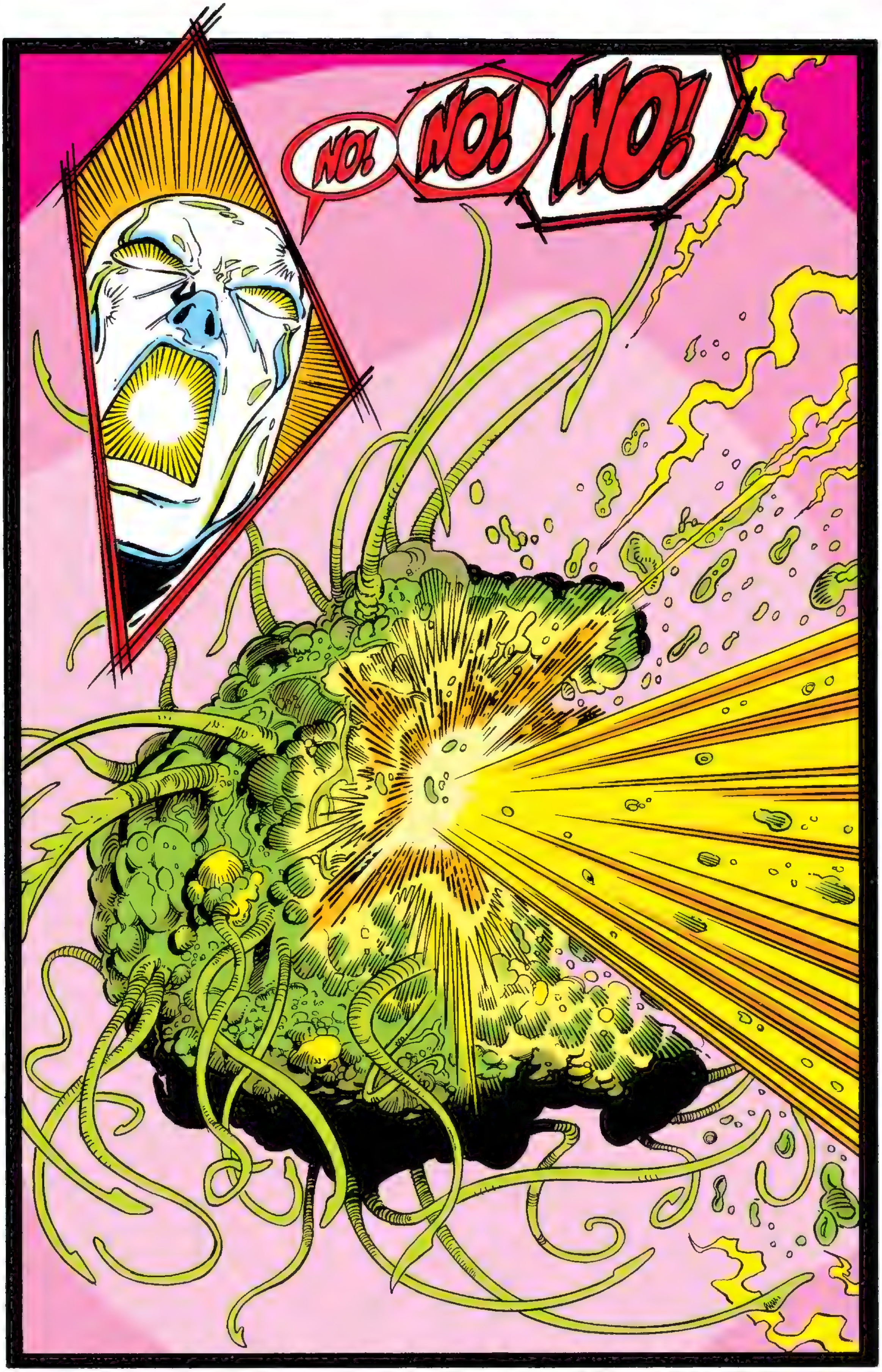
MY ENERGY BLASTS HAVE NO EFFECT ON THE BEAST!

HOW?

"SMOTHERING!"

"SUFFOCATING!"

"IS THIS HOW IT ENDS?"


NO!
NO!
NO!

THE PEOPLE...

...THE HALL OF DEATH...

...GONE!

WERE THEY EVER TRULY THERE?

WAS MY ORIGINAL ASSUMPTION CORRECT?

ALL A DREAM?

BUT IF IT WAS NOTHING BUT A NIGHTMARE, WHAT DID IT MEAN?

IT WAS ALL SO STRANGE... UNEXPLAINABLE... FRIGHTENING...

SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED SINCE ESCAPING MY IMPRISONMENT ON EARTH.

I'VE HAD NO TIME TO EXAMINE OR ANALYZE MY FEELINGS ABOUT THIS NEW-FOUND FREEDOM.

IT'S TIME TO FACE SOME FACTS.

AS MUCH AS I USUALLY HATE ADMITTING IT, THERE IS A HUMAN BEING BENEATH THIS SILVERY SHELL...

...A HUMAN WHO MAY BE SUFFERING SOME FORM OF DELAYED STRESS SYNDROME.

THAT MAY BE THE HIDDEN MESSAGE MY SUBCONSCIOUS WAS SENDING ME.

BUT FOR SOME REASON THAT EXPLANATION DOESN'T HAVE THE RING OF TRUTH ABOUT IT.

SO, THE QUESTION STILL REMAINS.

WHAT WAS THAT DREAM ALL ABOUT?

PERHAPS IT WAS A PREMONITION.

WHO?

YOU?

YOU WERE THE *DISEMBODIED SPIRIT* IN MY DREAM!

HOW *PERCEPTIVE* OF YOU TO NOTICE.

WHO ARE YOU?

THE NAME IS **THANOS.**

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE.

JIM STARLIN · RON LIM
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***SILVER SURFER: REBIRTH OF THANOS TPB* (2ND EDITION, 2006) COVER**
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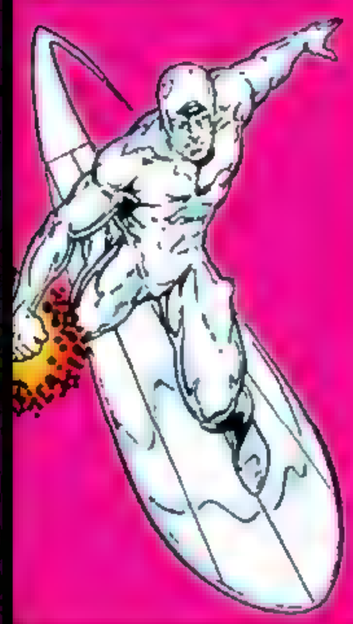

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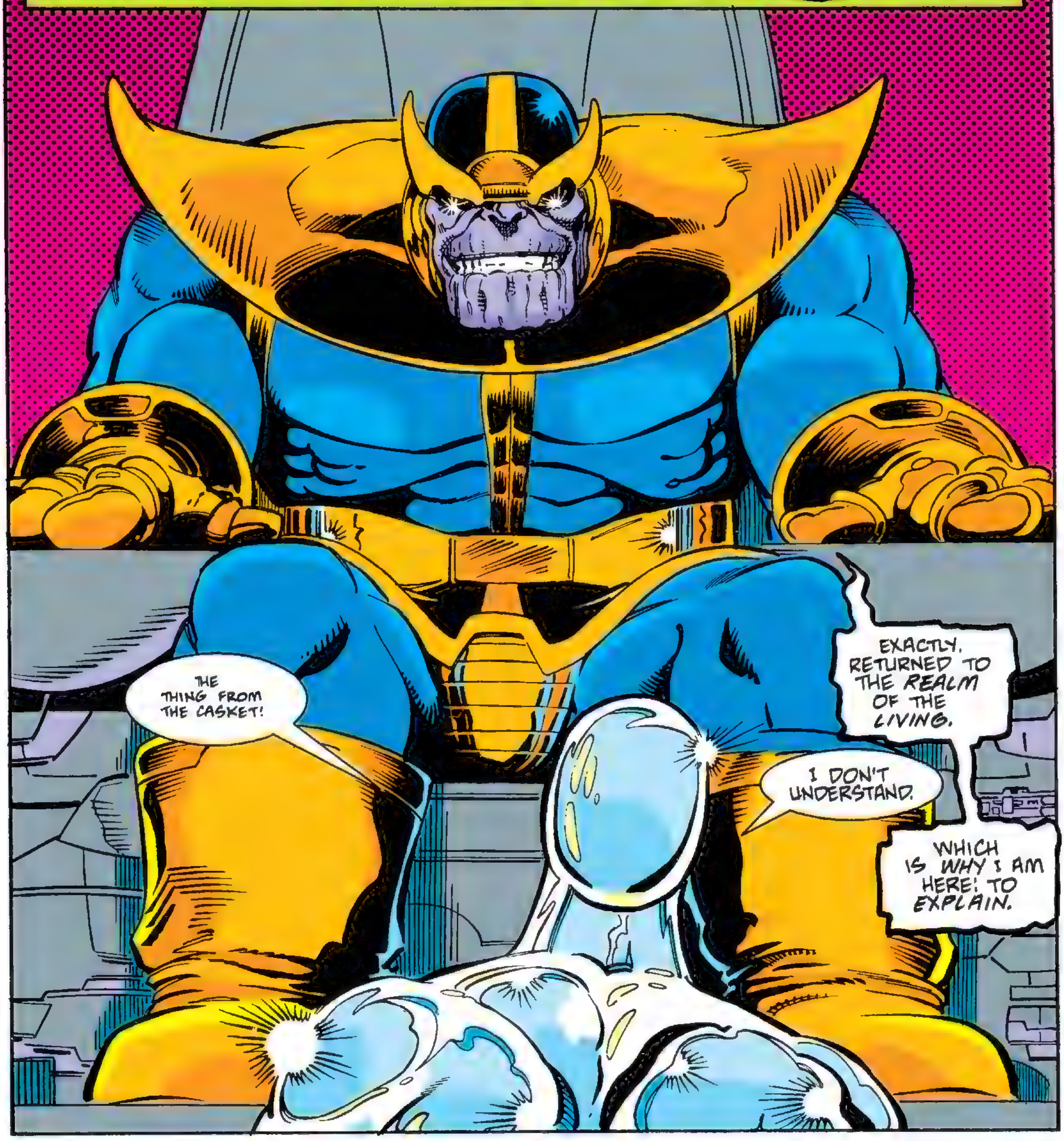
THANOS'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY!

STAN LEE PRESENTS THE SILVER SURFER IN

THE NAME IS THANOS!!



EXPLAIN?

FOR A CREATURE THAT POSSESSES SUCH GREAT *COSMIC POWER* FOR AS LONG AS YOU HAVE, YOU SEEM RATHER *NAIVE* IN SOME RESPECTS.

GALACTUS APPARENTLY KEPT YOUR EXISTENCE RATHER *CLOISTERED*, DIDN'T HE?

PERHAPS. YOU WERE GOING TO *EXPLAIN*...

ABOUT THE *GREAT IMBALANCE*.

DEATH'S MINIONS SPOKE OF THAT.

AS WELL THEY SHOULD, FOR IT IS THE MOST *DIRE THREAT* THIS UNIVERSE HAS EVER FACED.

IN MANY WAYS, IT IS A *METAPHYSICAL DANGER*.

BUT ONE, STRANGELY, MORE EASILY *ILLUSTRATED* THAN *EXPLAINED*.

IF YOU WOULD STEP OVER ONTO MY *VEHICLE*, I'LL SHOW YOU.

I...

FEAR NOT, YOUR *BOARD* WILL BE *SAFE* HERE.

VERY WELL. BUT I WARN YOU, THANOS...

"...IF THIS BE SOME TRICK TO SEPARATE ME FROM MY BOARD...

"...YOU'LL FIND THAT MY POWER COMES FROM WITHIN...

"...AND IS A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH."

YOU WERE WARNED!

ARE YOU THROUGH?

UH... YES.

ONE OF THE ULTIMATE TRUTHS IS THAT *LIFE* AND *DEATH* ARE BUT DIFFERENT SIDES OF THE *SAME* COIN.

ONE CANNOT EXIST WITHOUT THE OTHER.

AMAZING!

THANOS AND HIS FLYING CHAIR TOOK THE FULL FORCE OF MY COSMIC BOLT AND WERE *UNFAZED* BY IT.

I'VE HEARD THE *AVENGERS* SPEAK OF THANOS, THAT HE WAS *NOT* TO BE *TRUSTED*.

TO HEAR THEM TELL IT, HE'S THE *DEVIL INCARNATE*.

NOT ANYTHING LIKE THIS CALM *PROFESSORIAL CREATURE* I NOW SEE BEFORE ME.

PERHAPS HE'S *NOT* THE *SAME* THANOS.

OBVIOUSLY, MY BEST STRATEGY IS TO *WAIT, LISTEN* AND *LEARN*.

...*LIFE* AND *DEATH*, THE WAY EXISTENCE WAS MEANT TO BE.

AND IS.

NOT QUITE.

I BROUGHT YOU HERE TO *EARTH*, A PLANET YOU ARE RATHER *FAMILIAR* WITH, TO ILLUMINATE JUST THAT POINT.

YOU ARE AWARE OF THE *MEDICAL* AND OTHER *SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGHS* THIS WORLD'S *DOMINANT SPECIES* HAVE MADE OVER THE PAST FEW DECADES?

OF COURSE.

YOU REALIZE HOW THESE GAINS HAVE *DRAMATICALLY EXTENDED* THE *LIFE SPANS* OF THESE CREATURES?

ARE YOU ALSO AWARE OF THE FACT THAT MORE THAN *HALF* OF THE *HUMANS* EVER *BORN* ON THIS PLANET ARE PRESENTLY *ALIVE*, RIGHT THIS MOMENT?

YES, BUT...

NO, I WASN'T, BUT... *YOUR POINT?*

THAT THIS PLANET IS BECOMING *CRIMINALLY OVERPOPULATED.*

CRIMINALLY? ISN'T THAT A BIT HARSH?

NO, I CALL *THIS* HARSH-FORCING SENTIENT BEINGS TO LIVE UNDER SUCH CONDITIONS.

BUT, THIS IS *TOKYO, JAPAN,* DURING THE *RUSH HOUR;* HARDLY REPRESENTATIVE OF WHAT THE SITUATION IS LIKE ON THE WHOLE PLANET.

TRUE, BUT IT IS A *MODEL* OF WHERE THIS WORLD IS *HEADED*.

NOT NECESSARILY. THESE PEOPLE...

...PRODUCE *GARBAGE* AT AN ASTOUNDING RATE.

EACH PERSON IN THE *UNITED STATES*, ALONE, CREATES NEARLY *TWO TONS* OF *RUBBISH* PER YEAR.

THIS IS A SPECIES THAT IS RAPIDLY *BURYING ITSELF* IN ITS OWN *WASTE*.

THEN THERE'S THE *SHAMEFUL THINGS* THEY'RE DOING TO THEIR OWN *ATMOSPHERE.*

BUT LET'S NOT FORGET THE *NUCLEAR ECOLOGICAL TIME BOMBS* THEY HAVE SCATTERED ALL ABOUT.

A *GRAND LEGACY* TO LEAVE THEIR CHILDREN.

YOU REMEMBER THE *SMELL* OF THEIR *BEFOULED AIR,* DON'T YOU?

EARTH IS A WORLD RUSHING ON ITS WAY TO *DESOLATION* AND *DOOM!*

LOOK ABOUT YOU, SURFER, AND SEE THE *FUTURE!*

YOU'RE WRONG!

I REFUSE TO ACCEPT THIS FUTURE!

THERE ARE THOSE WHO CARE, WHO WILL WORK TO AVERT THIS TOMORROW!

DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT?

AM I NOT MERELY ECHOING FEARS AND SENTIMENTS YOU, YOURSELF, HAVE EXPRESSED?

IT'S BEEN NEARLY A GENERATION SINCE THERE WAS ANY SERIOUS TALK OF ZERO POPULATION GROWTH.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS ARE A JOKE ON THIS PLANET.

THE PEOPLE OF EARTH NOW LIVE WITH THE VAGUE NOTION THAT SOMEONE ELSE WILL SOLVE THIS PROBLEM FOR THEM.

IT NEVER OCCURS TO THEM THAT THEY, THEMSELVES, ARE THAT SOMEONE.

BUT *WHAT* HAS ANY OF THIS GOT TO DO WITH *YOU*, THANOS?

THIS IS A CONDITION *NOT UNIQUE* TO THIS WORLD.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WELCOME TO SALARIA!

IT IS A *LUSH* AND *BOUNTIFUL PLANET*, INHABITED BY A PRIMITIVE YET *GENTLE PEOPLE.*

BEAUTIFUL, AREN'T THEY?

YES, VERY.

THANOS KEEPS TELEPORTING US AROUND SO *FREQUENTLY*, MY *BOARD* HASN'T HAD TIME TO ANSWER MY *MENTAL SUMMONS*.

YOU NOTICE THE SALARIANS *DON'T FEAR* US.

THAT IS BECAUSE THIS WORLD POSSESSES *NO PREDATORS*; THEY HAVE NO *NATURAL ENEMIES*.

TRUE, THE TITAN HASN'T DONE ANYTHING OVERTLY *HOSTILE* YET, BUT...

SUCH SIMPLE CREATURES CRAVE NOTHING BUT *FOOD* AND *SHELTER* FROM THE RAINS.

THESE DESIRES ARE PRESENTLY *EASY* TO COME BY, AND SO THEY HAVE NO REASON TO *WAR* ON EACH OTHER. *PARADISE*, NO?

SO IT WOULD SEEM.

THEY'VE NOTHING TO DO BUT LAZE ABOUT AND *MULTIPLY*.

WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT THEY DO.

BY MY ESTIMATES, *20 YEARS* FROM NOW, THEIR *POPULATION* WILL RISE TO A LEVEL FAR *HIGHER* THAN THIS PLANET CAN *SUPPORT*.

FAMINE WILL SET IN, FOLLOWED BY CLAN *WARFARE* AND *CANNIBALISM*.

PARADISE BECOMES HELL.

BUT SURELY THEY CAN BE TAUGHT TO...

THEY HAVE THE *INTELLECT* BUT NOT THE *MOTIVATION*.

THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE, *NO ONE* WANTS TO BELIEVE THAT SUCH A *NIGHTMARE SCENARIO* COULD HAPPEN TO THEM.

NOW DO YOU BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND THE GRAVITY OF THE *GREAT IMBALANCE*?

SCIENCE AND A *BENEVOLENT NATURE* HAVE ALLOWED THOUSANDS OF DIFFERENT SPECIES TO *FLOURISH* BEYOND THE CAPABILITY OF THEIR ENVIRONS TO *SUSTAIN* THEM.

THE GRAND DESIGN HAS BEEN THROWN OFF KILTER.

IF LEFT ON THEIR OWN, THIS UNIVERSE'S RACES WILL SQUANDER THEIR RICHES AND PERISH WITHIN A FEW CENTURIES.

THE PENDULUM WILL SWING FROM ONE EXTREME TO THE OTHER.

FROM AN OVERABUNDANCE OF LIFE TO NO LIFE WHATSOEVER.

MY MISTRESS, DEATH, LIKES A CONSTANT AND STEADY HARVEST.

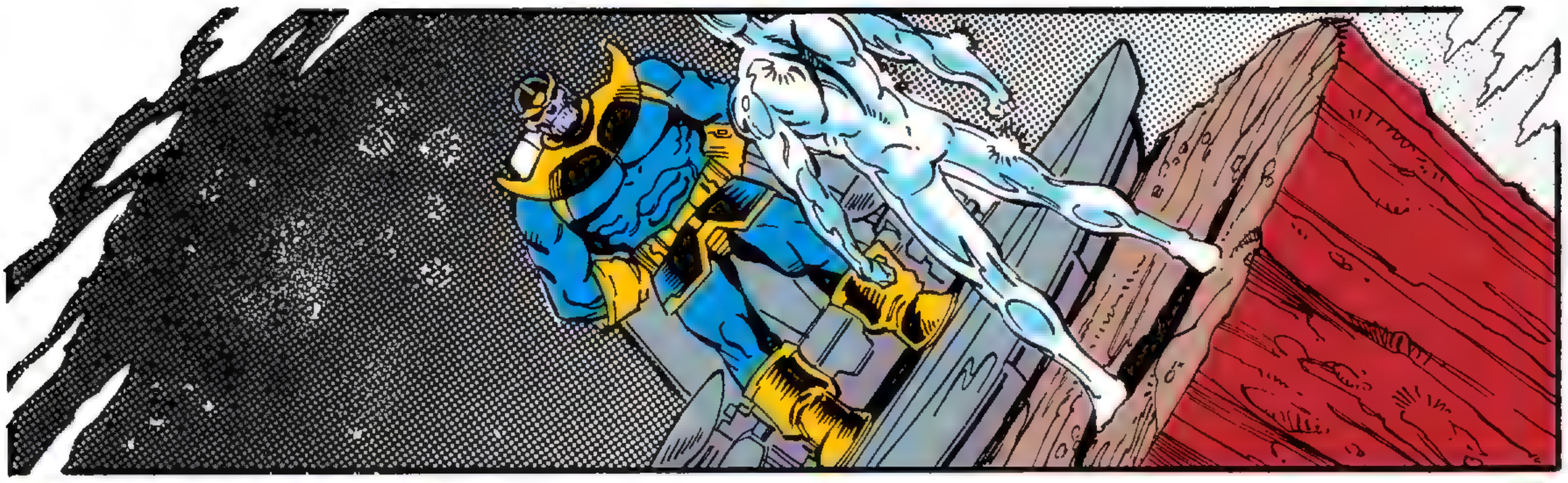
THE BALANCE MUST BE MAINTAINED. THAT IS WHY I HAVE RETURNED.

YOU MEAN... DEATH SENT YOU TO RIGHT THE UNIVERSE'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM ?!

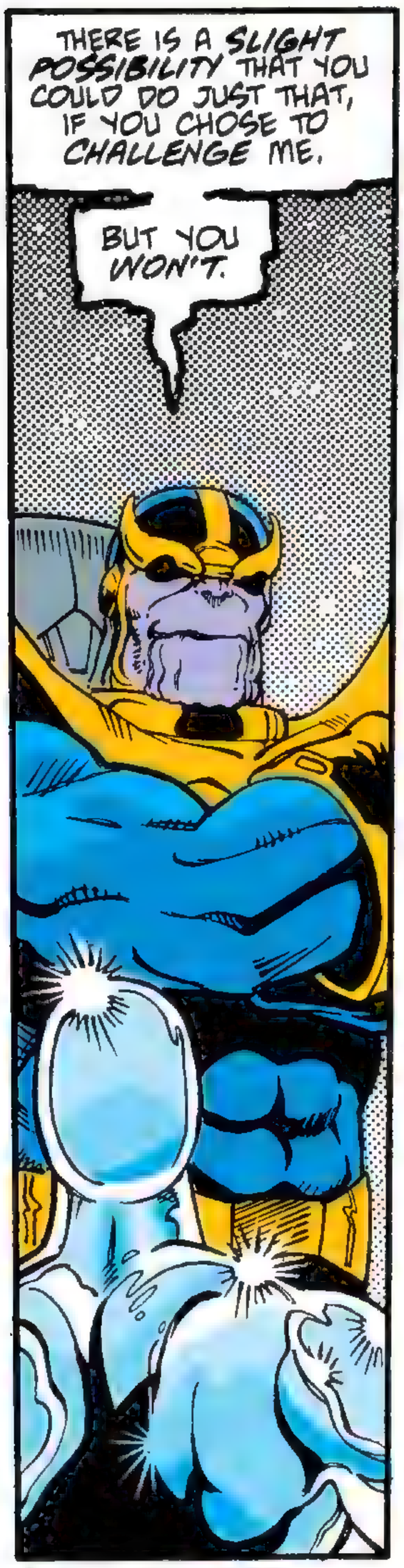
PRECISELY.

HOW DO YOU PROPOSE DOING THIS?

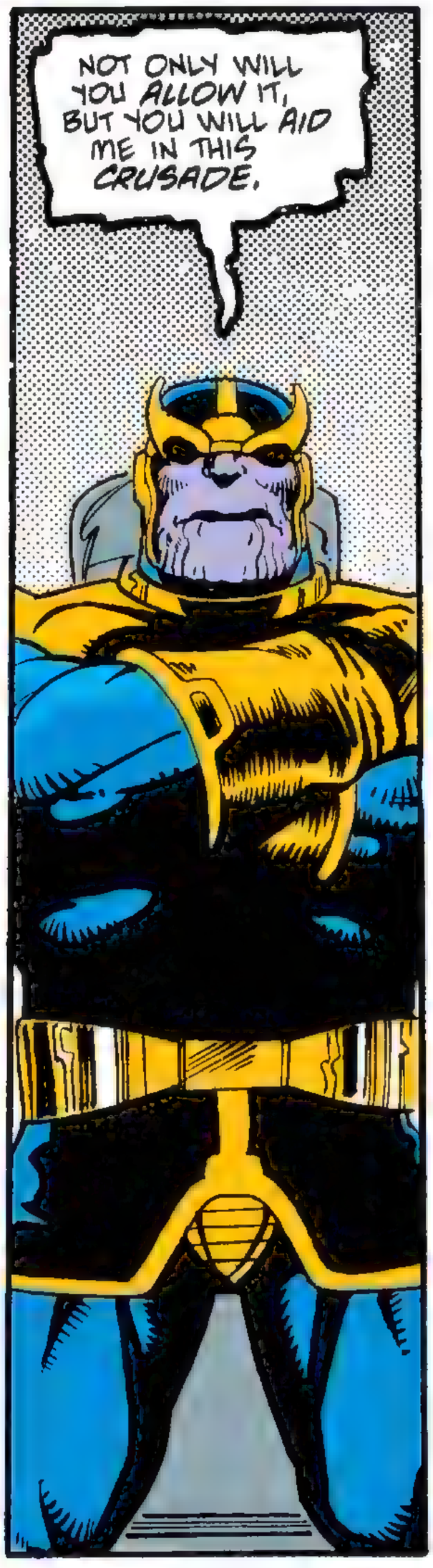
EUTHANASIA. BY KILLING OFF 50 PERCENT OF THIS UNIVERSE'S POPULATION.



I SEEM TO RECALL SOME TALK, BACK IN THE HALL OF DEATH, WARNING YOU ABOUT ME.
DEATH'S MINIONS SEEMED TO THINK THAT I COULD STAND IN THE WAY OF YOUR PLANS.


THERE IS A SLIGHT POSSIBILITY THAT YOU COULD DO JUST THAT, IF YOU CHOSE TO CHALLENGE ME.
BUT YOU WON'T.

YOU PROPOSE MASS MURDER! WHY SHOULDN'T I STOP YOU?
BECAUSE I MERELY CUT AWAY THE CANCER TO SAVE THE PATIENT.
THERE ARE OTHER WAYS THIS GOAL CAN BE REACHED.
YOUR SOLUTION IS TOO TERMINAL; I WON'T ALLOW IT!


NOT ONLY WILL YOU ALLOW IT, BUT YOU WILL AID ME IN THIS CRUSADE.

NEVER!

YOU'VE ALREADY DONE SO, SURFER.

BACK ON SALARIA.

HOW?!

WHEN WE WERE BACK ON EARTH, YOU PICKED UP CERTAIN *GERMS* ON YOUR PERSON, *COMMON BACTERIA* FROM THE AIR.

THESE GERMS WOULD NORMALLY PERISH DURING YOUR *VOYAGES* FROM ONE PLANET TO THE NEXT, BUT THIS TIME I *TELEPORTED* YOU DIRECTLY TO SALARIA.

MICROSCOPIC LIFE *HARMLESS* TO YOU AND ALL EARTH CREATURES...

...BUT QUITE *DEADLY* TO THE INHABITANTS OF *SALARIA*.

THE *PLAGUE* SHOULD BE WELL ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE *SALARIAN COMMUNITY* BY NOW.

HOW?

DURING OUR *TELEPORTATION SESSIONS*, I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF *MANIPULATING* OUR POSITION IN THE *TIME FLOW*.

I CALCULATE THAT NEARLY *50%* OF SALARIA'S POPULATION HAS *PERISHED* BY NOW.

BUT IF YOU *HURRY*, YOU CAN STILL *SAVE* THE *OTHER HALF.*

OR YOU CAN *WASTE TIME* PITTING YOUR POWERS AGAINST MINE.

THE AIR TREMBLES WITH THANOS'S GUTTERAL LAUGHTER, THICK WITH DARK DELIGHT AND CONTEMPT.

IT IS A SOUND MUCH LIKE GRINDING BONES AND WAILING SOULS.

THE HEAVENS SEEM TO RING WITH THIS EBON EXHILARATION, DEFYING MANY LAWS OF PHYSICS AND NATURE.

DEEP WITHIN A FAR-OFF CORNER OF SPACE NOT TRULY LINKED WITH OUR REALITY...

...A GOD-LIKE BEING KNOWN AS CHRONOS HEARS THIS FOUL LAUGHTER AND REALIZES THAT THANOS ONCE AGAIN LIVES.

WHILE BACK ON SALARIA...

THE SITUATION HERE IS *WORSE* THAN I EVER FEARED.

THE STENCH OF *DEATH* AND *DISEASE* FILLS THE AIR.

A *UNIVERSAL ANTIBODY* IS NEEDED. FORTUNATELY, THAT'S SOMETHING I CAN PROVIDE.

I ONCE HAD TO DO THE SAME FOR MYSELF.

THE LAD LOOKS LIKE AS GOOD A CANDIDATE AS ANY TO BE THE *SAVIOR* OF HIS RACE.

TWO SYSTEMS MERGE, THE MICRO-ORGANISM IS ENCOUNTERED. A COUNTERING AGENT IS PRODUCED FROM THE COSMIC ETHER AND THEN PASSED ON TO THE YOUNG SALARIAN.

THAT'S IT, LAD, RUN!

GO FORTH AND TOUCH TEN PEOPLE, AND HAVE THEM TOUCH TEN OTHERS IN TURN.

AND SO THE CURE WILL SPREAD.

BY SUNRISE, THE DISEASE WILL BE CHECKED, AND THIS PLANET SAVED.

THEN THE GRIM TASK OF TENDING TO THE DEAD WILL HAVE TO BEGIN IN EARNEST.

THANOS'S HARVEST.

HUH?

YES, CHILD, THIS HARVEST ALSO BELONGS TO THE SILVER SURFER.

I ALLOWED THE DEVIL TO *OUTFOX* ME.

MY *STUPIDITY* COST THIS WORLD AND ITS PEOPLE DEARLY.

I STAY TO AID IN THE GRISLY *CLEANUP*, AND THEN MY *PENANCE* BEGINS.

SOMEWHERE AMIDST THE *STELLAR GRANDEUR* LURKS A POWERFUL *MADMAN*.

HE IS WALKING *DEATH*.

LURID PLOTS AND *DASTARDLY THOUGHTS* INCUBATE WITHIN HIS WARPED PSYCHE.

HIS GOAL IS THE *DEATH* OF *BILLIONS*.

SO I MUST SEARCH THE NEAR *INFINITE VASTNESS* OF THE *COSMOS* FOR THIS DEPRAVED DEMON.

IT IS A TASK NONE BUT *I* CAN ACCOMPLISH.

THEN, WHEN MY SEARCH ENDS, I MUST *CONFRONT* AND PUT AN *END* TO THANOS'S *INSANITY*.

"UNTIL THEN, LET THE UNIVERSE BEWARE"!

Jim STARLIN ~ writer
Ron LIM ~ penciler
Tom CHRISTOPHER ~ inker
Ken BRUZENAK ~ letterer
Tom VINCENT ~ colorist
Craig ANDERSON ~ editor
Tom DeFALCO ~ chief

EPILOGUE:

HE IS CHRONOS, FATHER OF THE ETERNALS OF TITAN, AND HE IS THEIR GOD.

HE NOW WALKS THE CORRIDORS OF A HIGHER PLANE OF EXISTENCE.

BUT MAD THANOS IS ONE OF HIS DESCENDANTS, AND SO HE HAS A RESPONSIBILITY HE MUST HONOR, AS HE HAS BEFORE.

ONCE AGAIN, THE SOUL IS TORN FROM ITS JUST REST.

THE BODY COMES FROM AND IS ENDOWED WITH THE STRENGTH OF THE UNIVERSE.

BECAUSE OF WHAT HE MUST FACE, HE IS POWER PERSONIFIED.

FOR, IF THANOS ONCE AGAIN LIVES, SO MUST **DRAX, THE DESTROYER!**

THANOS...

WHERE IS THANOS?

THREE GUESSES WHO THE **SILVER SURFER** HAS AN ENCOUNTER WITH IN JUST THIRTY DAYS!
WE'LL GIVE YOU A HINT!
HE'S **GREEN** AND **PURPLE** AND **HARD TO DEAL WITH!!**

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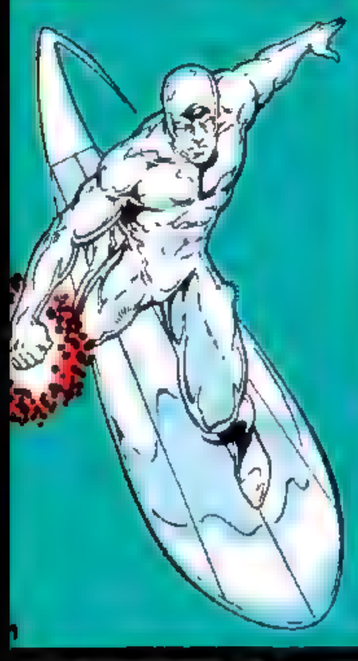

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THE SILVER SURFER®

OH, NO! NOT YOU!

SPECIAL APPEARANCES BY

WARLOCK®

AND

CAPTAIN MARVEL

Stan Lee presents:

SILVER SURFER

"SURFER, I'VE BEEN *WATCHING* YOU. I'VE BEEN *FOLLOWING* YOU.

"I'VE SEEN *EVERYTHING* YOU'VE DONE OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS, INCLUDING YOUR MEETING WITH *THANOS*, THE MAD TITAN.

"NOW YOU'RE HEADING TOWARD *EARTH*. WHAT DRAWS YOU THERE?

THE LESSON?

Jim Starlin - writer
Ron Lim - penciler
Tom Christopher - inker
Ken Bruzenak - letterer
Tom Vincent - colorist
Craig Anderson - editor
Tom DeFalco - chief

"NOW I SEE. YOU'RE HEADING TOWARD *AVENGERS MANSION.*

"THIS SHOULD BE *FUN.*

"THE AVENGERS ARE SUCH A *ZANY GROUP.*

EEEE

...YOU BETTER LISTEN!

POW!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

I'LL TAKE YOUR SHINY HEAD OFF THAT PIN NECK OF YOURS, YOU...

THIS YOUNG WOMAN SORT OF BUMPED INTO ME, AND..

AT EASE, AVENGER. THE SILVER SURFER IS A FRIEND.

I'LL HANDLE THIS.

SILVER SURFER! OH, YEAH THE BOARD... A DEAD GIVEAWAY!

IN THE MEANTIME, I SUGGEST YOU GO REVIEW OUR ASSOCIATE FILE SO THAT YOU CAN BETTER DISTINGUISH FRIEND FROM FOE.

HEY, IT WAS AN HONEST MISTAKE. GIMME A BREAK.

SORRY ABOUT THAT.

NO HARM DONE.

WHAT BRINGS YOU BACK TO EARTH, SURFER?

I SEEK INFORMATION ON A CREATURE CALLED *THANOS*.

I SEEM TO REMEMBER SOMEONE MENTIONING THAT THE *AVENGERS* ONCE HAD A *CONFRONTATION* WITH HIM.

NOT ONCE, *TWICE*. AND THEY WEREN'T CONFRONTATIONS; THEY WERE ALL-OUT *WAR*.

BUT WHY ARE YOU SO INTERESTED IN HIM? THE GENT'S *DEAD*.

HIS *STATUS* HAS CHANGED. YOU MUST ONCE AGAIN COUNT *THANOS* AMONG THE *LIVING*.

WHAT THE DEVIL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I FEAR I'VE *CURRENT INFORMATION* YOU MIGHT WANT TO ADD TO YOUR *FILES* ON THE TITAN. YESTERDAY, WHILE I WAS...

... AND THANOS PLANS TO MURDER *HALF* THE *POPULATION* OF THE UNIVERSE TO RIGHT SOME *METAPHYSICAL IMBALANCE*?

EXACTLY.

INSANE.

UNFORTUNATELY, *PAST EXPERIENCE* HAS SHOWN THAT THANOS IS MORE THAN CAPABLE OF ACCOMPLISHING JUST SUCH A *MAD GOAL*.

LET ME PUNCH UP HIS *FILE* AND SHOW YOU.

THANOS MAY WELL HAVE BEEN THE *MOST DANGEROUS FOE* THE AVENGERS EVER FACED.

"WE SORT OF *INHERITED* THIS HEADACHE. ORIGINALLY, THANOS WAS THE LATE *CAPTAIN MARVEL'S* PROBLEM, BUT HE PROVED TO BE MORE THAN THE *KREE WARRIOR* AND HIS *TITAN ALLIES* COULD HANDLE ALONE.

"THANOS WAS BACKED BY AN ARMY OF *GALACTIC MERCENARIES* AND WAS ALWAYS SPINNING SOME SORT OF *UNIVERSE-THREATENING PLOT.* HIS SCHEMES FINALLY ESCALATED TO THE POINT WHERE HE GAINED POSSESSION OF THE *COSMIC CUBE,* AN ASTRAL ALADDIN'S LAMP.

"THAT'S WHEN WE *AVENGERS* WERE PULLED INTO THE CASE.

"THANOS USED THE *COSMIC CUBE* TO TURN HIMSELF INTO *GOD.* HE BECAME *EVERYTHING* IN THE UNIVERSE, AND EVERYTHING WAS *HIM.*

"THAT IMAGINATIVE LITTLE MOVE MADE HIM DARN WELL *UNSTOPPABLE.* FORTUNATELY, WE DIDN'T GIVE HIM TIME TO ADJUST TO THIS *OMNIPOTENT STATE OF BEING.*

"THE AVENGERS AND I AND SOME OF OUR FRIENDS TURNED ON THE JUICE, AND EVENTUALLY WE FOUND THE *BREAK* WE SO DESPERATELY NEEDED.

"IT SEEMS THANOS KEPT SOME TYPE OF *LINK* BETWEEN *HIMSELF* AND THE *COSMIC CUBE.*

"MARVEL'S *COSMIC SENSES* PICKED UP ON THIS ACHILLES' HEEL.

"WITH THE CUBE SHATTERED, THANOS'S *LINK* WITH THE *INFINITE* WAS BROKEN AND WE THOUGHT HIM *DESTROYED.*"

BUT YOU WERE OBVIOUSLY MISTAKEN.

YOU BET. JUST LIKE A *BAD PENNY*, THANOS SHOWED UP AGAIN A FEW YEARS LATER.

THIS TIME A COSMIC BEING ORIGINALLY KNOWN AS *HIM*, LATER CALLED *ADAM WARLOCK*, BROUGHT THANOS BACK TO OUR ATTENTION.

ONLY THIS TIME, THANOS DIDN'T WANT TO *RULE* THE UNIVERSE; HE WANTED TO *DESTROY* IT.

APPARENTLY, THANOS HAD BEEN HOPPING AROUND THE HEAVENS COLLECTING THESE *LITTLE BEAUTIES.*

SOUL GEMS!

YOU KNOW ABOUT *SOUL GEMS?*

YES. *REED RICHARDS*, HIS *WIFE* AND I HAD A RATHER HARROWING EXPERIENCE WITH THEM SOME MONTHS AGO. *

APPEARS I'VE SOME FILE REVIEWING TO CATCH UP ON MYSELF.

* SS #15-18.--CRAIG

"APPARENTLY, THANOS PLANNED TO USE THE NEAR *LIMITLESS POWER* OF THE COMBINED GEMS TO *BLOW* THE *STARS* FROM THE ETHER, ONE AT A TIME.

"HIS *MOTIVATION*: SOME KIND OF *ENTROPY TRIP* HE WAS ON. I DON'T PRETEND TO UNDERSTAND IT.

"THIS TIME, THE *AVENGERS*, THE *THING*, *SPIDER-MAN*, *CAPTAIN MARVEL*, AND *ADAM WARLOCK* FACED DOWN THANOS.

"IT WAS A REAL *COSMIC DONNYBROOK*. EARTH HEROES AGAINST ALIEN HORDES. THANOS ACTUALLY, PHYSICALLY, WENT TOE-TO-TOE WITH BOTH *THOR* AND THE *THING*. ADAM WARLOCK WAS *KILLED* IN THE BATTLE.

"BUT, EVEN IN *DEATH*, WARLOCK REFUSED TO LET THANOS GAIN HIS *DARK VICTORY*."

"SOMEHOW *WARLOCK'S SPIRIT* RETURNED THROUGH THE *SOUL GEMS* TO THWART THE TITAN'S SCHEME.

"I NEVER SAW ANYTHING QUITE LIKE IT, AND I HOPE I NEVER WILL AGAIN.

"WARLOCK'S GHOST TURNED THANOS INTO *STONE*, AS COLD AND HARD AS THE TITAN'S HEART HAD BEEN.

"ONCE AGAIN, IT LOOKED LIKE THE *GOOD GUYS* HAD WON AND THAT WE'D NEVER HAVE TO DEAL WITH THANOS AGAIN."

I APOLOGIZE FOR BEING THE ONE TO DISPEL THAT *COMFORTING ILLUSION*.

BY THE WAY, WHO WAS THAT *EMERALD MAN* I SAW EARLIER ON?

THAT'D BE THE *DESTROYER*. DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HIM. HE WAS A TITAN, *KILLED* A FEW YEARS BACK.

FOR ANY FURTHER INFO ON HIM OR THANOS, I SUGGEST A TRIP TO *TITAN*; TALK TO THANOS' FATHER, *MENTOR*.

HE'S A GOOD MAN.

TITAN'S AN *ARTIFICIAL SATELLITE* AROUND SATURN-- MOST FOLKS THINK IT'S A NATURAL MOON.

I KNOW. I'VE MET ONE OF ITS CITIZENS, *EROS*.

REALLY? DID YOU KNOW EROS USED TO BE AN *AVENGER*?

NO, I DIDN'T.

I THOUGHT YOU AVENGERS MORE *DISCRIMINATING* IN WHO YOU ALLOW TO JOIN YOUR ORGANIZATION.

SAY WHAT?

THANK YOU FOR THE INFORMATION. FARE THEE WELL.

HUH? SURE... ANY TIME...

"SURFY LEFT IN KIND OF A *HUFF*, DIDN'T HE?

"THE BOY MUST HAVE HAD SOME *PAST TROUBLE* WITH YOUNG *EROS*.

"EASY TO SEE WHY; *EROS* IS ONE *FUN GUY*. SURF, ON THE OTHER HAND....

"OIL AND *WATER*. THOSE TWO WOULD NEVER HIT IT OFF.

"BUT MAYBE I CAN *REMEDY* THAT SITUATION."

"AFTER ALL, THAT'S WHAT I CAME HALFWAY ACROSS THE GALAXY TO DO! *ADJUST* THE SURFER'S *ATTITUDE*. MISSION IMPOSSIBLE? NOT TO ME."

HEY, SURF! HOW'S IT HANGING TEN?!

THE IMPOSSIBLE MAN!

NO!

NOT NOW!

I HAVEN'T TIME TO FOOL WITH YOU RIGHT NOW, IMPOSSIBLE MAN.

THERE'S THIS MADMAN NAMED...

POP!

MUUMPH!

THE GRAVITY OF MARS REACHES OUT.

AND FOR SOME REASON, THE SURFER'S BOARD DOES NOT RESPOND TO HIS CALL FOR AID.

BEAUTIFUL!

RED! IT REALLY IS YOUR COLOR!

HAVE A LOOK AT YOURSELF!

POP!

YOU'RE SIMPLY SMASHING!

DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME? I'VE *NO TIME* FOR GAMES RIGHT NOW.

NO GAMES, SURF. I'M HERE TO TEACH YOU A *VALUABLE LESSON*.

POP!

IT'S TIME FOR THE SILVER SURFER TO GO BACK TO *SCHOOL*.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

POP!

I'VE BEEN KEEPING AN *EYE* ON YOU, SURF.

POP!

YOU'RE NOT THE *FUN GUY* YOU *PRETENDED* TO BE WHEN WE FIRST MET. *

I SAW THAT UNSATISFACTORY LITTLE BRUSH YOU HAD WITH *THANOS*.

POP!

* SS#33--CRAIG

I'VE BEEN GIVING THAT MEETING A *LOT* OF *THOUGHT*.

I'M TALKING SOME *HEAVY CONSIDERATION* HERE, MAN.

POP!

AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THANOS PLANS TO KILL OFF *HALF* OF *ALL* THE *PEOPLE* IN THE *UNIVERSE*, RIGHT?

THAT'S HIS GOAL.

POP!

WELL, *I'M* PART OF ONE-HALF OF THE UNIVERSE'S POPULATION.

WONDER IF HE CHOOSES *MY HALF* TO WASTE?

GRAAO

JUST THINK OF WHAT AN *EMPTY PLACE* THE HEAVENS WOULD BE *WITHOUT ME!*

WHO WOULD PROVIDE ALL THE *FUN* AND *KICK OUT* THE *JAMS?*

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

I'LL HANDLE THANOS.

WILL YOU NOW?

CAN YOU *REALLY DELIVER* ON THAT *PROMISE?*

I WISH YOU'D STOP CHANGING SHAPE LIKE THAT?

POP!

POP!

AS I SAID, I'VE BEEN *SPYING* ON YOU, AND FOUND YOU TO BE *LESS* THAN THE *WILD* AND *CRAZY* GUY I THOUGHT YOU WERE.

IN FACT, YOU'RE A REAL *PARTY POOPER!*

POP!

DEAD *SERIOUS!* SO SOLEMN I COULD JUST *PLOTZ!* A *STONE DRAG!*

TRUE, *HUMOR* HAS NEVER BEEN ONE OF MY *STRONG POINTS.* SO WHAT?

SO *THANOS* IS A STONE DRAG *ALSO,* THAT'S WHAT!

POP!

AND HE'S GOT YOU *BEAT* HANDS DOWN IN *THAT DEPARTMENT.*

JUST *WHAT* ARE YOU GOING ON ABOUT?

I'M SAYING THAT *THANOS* IS MUCH MORE STOIC, GRIM, UNFLAPPABLE, STERN, UNLAUGHING, FORBIDDING, HUMORLESS AND BORING

POP!

...THAN YOU ARE!

POP!

YOU TAKE HIM ON SPORTING YOUR *CURRENT ATTITUDE* AND HE'S GOING TO MAKE *MINCE-MEAT* OUT OF YOU.

POP!

YOU'RE SAYING?

YOU *AIN'T GOT* WHAT IT TAKES TO *OUT-GRIM* THE TURKEY!

POP!

SO YOU'RE *ADVISING* ME TO...

BE A CLOWN, MAKE THEM LAUGH!* ALL THE WHOLE UNIVERSE WANTS TO LAUGH!

YOU DON'T NEED A LASER CANNON IF YOUR JOKES ARE REAL RIGHT ON!

POP!

*SUNG TO THE TUNE OF "*MAKE THEM LAUGH.*"

YOU'LL TRIUMPHANT ALL THE TIME 'LONG AS YOU'VE A HUMOROUS RHYME!

NOW YOU'RE SOLID MUSCLE FROM YER HEAD TO YER FEET, BUT THAT DON'T MEAN YOU WON'T BE DEALT A DEFEAT! WHEN THAT HAPPENS, LAUGHING IT OFF WOULD BE REALLY NEAT!

POP!

MY GRANDMA SAID GO OUT AND TELL THEM A JOKE, BETTER THAN MAKING THEM CHOKE!

POP!

SO MAKE THEM LAUGH! MAKE THEM LAUGH! MAKE THEM LAUGH!

MAKE THEM ROAR! MAKE THEM SCREAM!

POP!

TAKE A FALL FROM A TALL PARTICLE BEAM!

FLOPPY FEET, A SMILE BUTTON AND A COMICAL FACE! FIND THEY'LL GET YOU IN OR OUT OF ANY DISGRACE! YOU'LL SEE A GOOD JOKE'S BETTER THAN A SPRAY CAN OF MACE!

POP!

SO MAKE THEM LAUGH MAKE THEM LAUGH MAKE THEM...

STOP!

I'LL NOT TOLERATE ANY MORE OF THIS LUNACY!

SURFY...

...HOW COULD YOU?

IMPOSSIBLE MAN! I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO...

IN FACT, I CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW I...

... IN FACT, I...

YOU'RE SUCH A SAP, SURFY.

BUT I STILL LOVE YOU ANYWAY.

POP!

SMACK!

NOW DO YOU SEE HOW YOUR LACK OF HUMOR COULD FOUL YOU UP, SURF?

I SEE THAT YOU ARE INSANE, AND I SEE NO REASON TO PUT UP WITH ANY FURTHER ABUSE.

I'M JUST TRYING TO ILLUSTRATE AN IMPORTANT POINT!

WHICH IS?

POP!

SORRY I ASKED!

POP!

DON'T BE. YOU'RE NOT A *FUNNY GUY*, SURF. NORMALLY THAT'S NOT A *BIG PROBLEM*.

BUT NOW YOU'RE HAVING A *SHOWDOWN* WITH THANOS, AN EVEN *LESS FUNNY* GUY.

YOU *JUST CAN'T WIN* PLAYING THIS DUDE'S GAME!

POP!

I'VE GOT A SENSE ABOUT THESE SORT OF THINGS; *TRUST ME*.

YOU'VE GOT TO *LIGHTEN UP*, OR ALL IS LOST.

POP!

IT'S A SIMPLE MATTER OF *MATHEMATICS*: THANOS OUT-GROSSES YOU IN THE *GROSS-OUT COMPETITION*.

WHY AM I *WASTING* MY TIME LISTENING TO YOU?

POP!

BECAUSE, DEEP WITHIN THAT STOIC SHELL, YOU REALIZE I'M *MAKING SENSE*, WHICH I ADMIT IS *UNUSUAL* FOR ME.

POP!

ENOUGH! I'M LEAVING!

NOT UNTIL YOU REACH TRUE *COSMIC ENLIGHTENMENT*!

POP!

WHAT?

I WARN YOU, IMPOSSIBLE MAN. I'M *FED UP!*

I'M NOT GOING TO PUT UP WITH ANYMORE OF THIS...

...WHAT ARE YOU UP TO NOW?

IMPOSSIBLE MAN?

B-OOM

THE TRICK IS THAT YOU'VE GOT TO *BURST* OUT OF YOUR CURRENT *MISCONCEPTIONS* OF WHAT THE UNIVERSE IS ALL ABOUT!

IT'S AN *EXPLOSIVE IDEA* WHOSE TIME HAS COME!

DON'T ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE *TRAPPED* BY WHAT *HAS BEEN* BUT NEED NOT *BE*, GRASSHOPPER.

POP!

YOU WON'T GO *WRONG* TAKING THIS DEAL. YOU HAVE MY *WORD* ON IT.

POP!

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

LET THERE BE AN END TO THIS *BUFFOONERY!!*

I'LL NOT TOLERATE ANY FURTHER *NONSENSE!!*

ULP!

SURE, SURFY! WHATEVER YOU SAY!

I GIVE UP!

YOU WIN!

JUST TRYING TO HELP!

DON'T HURT ME!

I'M SORRY, IMPOSSIBLE MAN. I GUESS I *OVERREACTED*. DIDN'T MEAN TO DEAL WITH YOU *SO ROUGHLY*.

POP!

IT'S JUST THAT YOU'RE SO *INFURIATING*, ALWAYS *TALKING* AND NEVER LISTENING.

IT'S OKAY, CHROME-DOME. I UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY.

SLORP!

I GIVE UP. YOU WIN. I'LL LIGHTEN UP. WHATEVER THAT MEANS.

HONEST? YES. YOU PROMISE? YES. HOPE TO LOSE AN EYE IF YOU LIE?

POP!

HAVEN'T I GIVEN YOU *MY PROMISE?*

YES, BUT YOU DON'T LOOK ALL THAT *HAPPY* ABOUT IT.

TAKE MY WORD.. *PLEASE.*

HENNY YOUNGMAN!

SORT OF.

HAHAHAH

...ONE LAST TEST.

WELL?

PERFECTO!

ONCE AGAIN, I FEEL THERE'S HOPE FOR THE UNIVERSE!

LET THE CROWDS CHEER! LET THIS DAN BE IMMORTALIZED IN SONGS BY BARRY MANILOW!

WITH A HARDY "HI-YO SILVER AWAY AND DA DA!"

COMPLETELY MAD.

BUT PERHAPS HE DID HAVE A POINT.

SURE, AT THE TOP OF HIS HEAD.

WAS THAT A JOKE?

NEXT: the DESTROYER!

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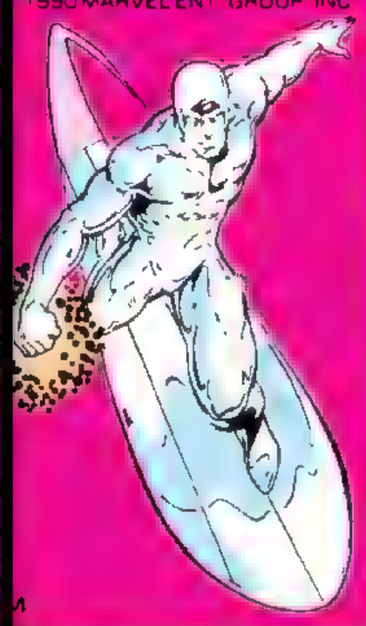

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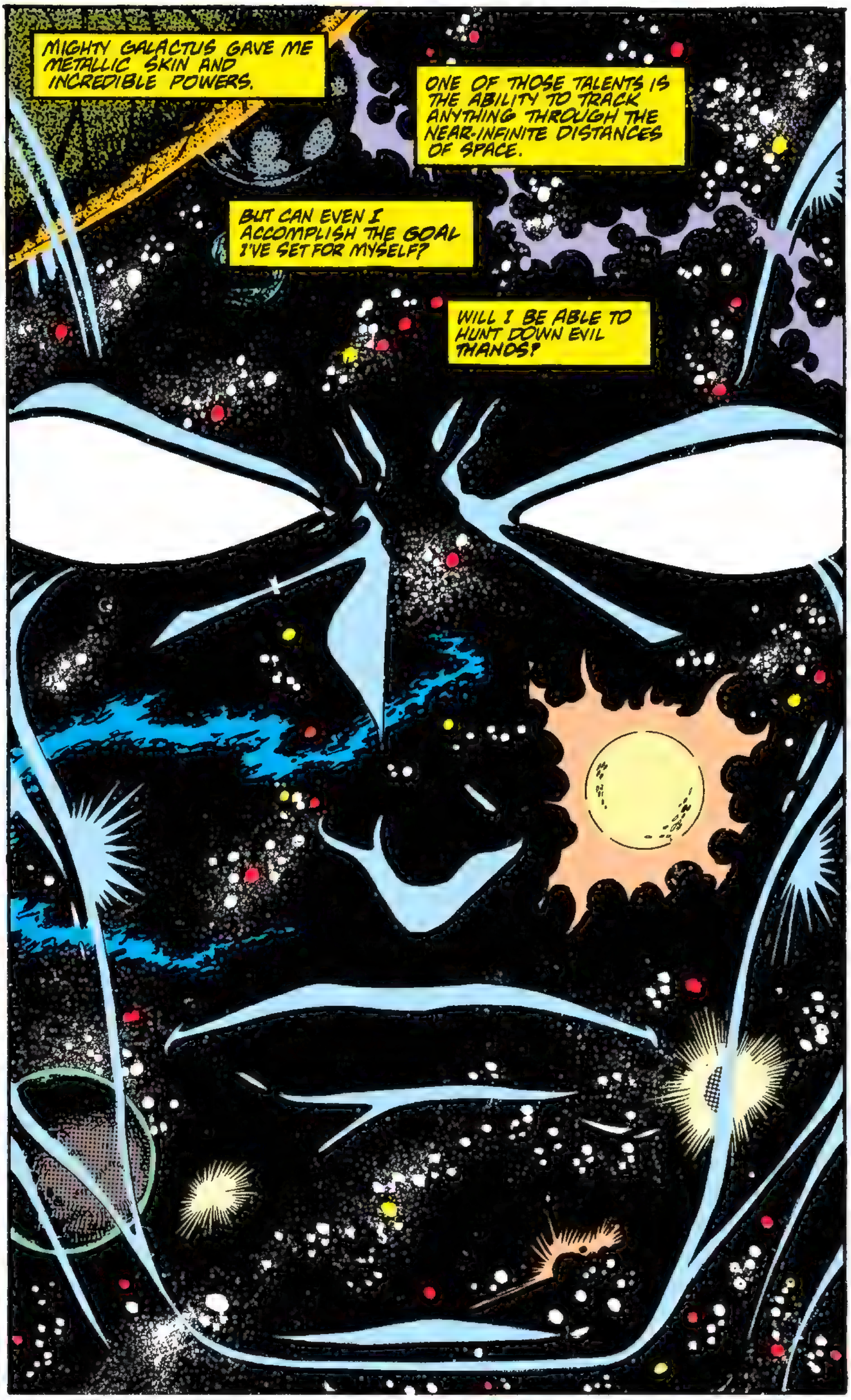
THE SILVER SURFER®

WHERE IS THANOS?

Stan Lee presents: THE SILVER SURFER

A DESTRUCTIVE ENCOUNTER

JIM STARLIN
writer
RON LIM
penciler
TOM CHRISTOPHER
inker
KEN BRUZENAK
letterer
TOM VINCENT
colorist
CRAIG ANDERSON
editor
TOM DeFALCO
chief



IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT IT WAS ONLY YESTERDAY THANOS AND I MET ON THIS BARREN PLANET.

HE WOULD HAVE USED HIS TELEPORTATION PLATFORM TO DEPART FROM THIS DESOLATE LOCALE.

HAD HE USED A SPACECRAFT MY TASK WOULD BE A SIMPLE ONE.

MY POWERS COULD EASILY TRACK THE TELLTALE MICROSCOPIC EMISSIONS LEFT BY HIS VEHICLE.

BUT THANOS IS NOT YOUR CONVENTIONAL SPACE FARER.

HE POSSESSES TELEPORTATION TECHNOLOGY, AND THAT MAKES HIM AN ELUSIVE QUARRY.

I ONCE FACED A FOE WITH SIMILAR CAPABILITIES AND USED MY SKILLS TO TRACK HIM.

BUT THEN I WAS ON A PLANET'S SURFACE, AND THE DISTANCES INVOLVED WERE MERE MILES.

THANOS JUMPS FROM ONE SOLAR SYSTEM TO ANOTHER IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.

CAN HIS SYSTEM OF TELEPORTATION BE TRACED?

THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT.

I MUST NARROW THE RANGE OF MY SPECTROSCOPIC VISION DOWN TO THE ELECTROMAGNETIC.

NOTHING. THEN LET ME BROADEN MY VIEW INTO THE SUB-ATOMIC.

ANY MATTER TRAVELING THROUGH SPACE MUST LEAVE SOME TRAIL.

STILL NOTHING. SO I MUST RAISE THE FREQUENCY RANGE OF MY VISION.

THANOS IS LIKE NO FOE I'VE FACED. PERHAPS HE OPERATES ON UNHEARD OF SPECTRO LEVELS.

THERE IT IS!!

AMAZING. THE TECHNOLOGIES INVOLVED AT OPERATING ON THIS LEVEL WOULD TAX EVEN GALACTUS'S SCIENTIFIC ABILITIES, YET THANOS ROAMS HERE FREELY.

WHAT MANNER OF ENEMY HAVE YOU MADE FOR YOURSELF THIS TIME, SURFER?

THE END OF THIS TRAIL WILL ANSWER THAT QUESTION, AND SO MANY OTHER UNSPOKEN QUERIES ABOUT THANOS AND TITAN.

AND THEN AGAIN, PERHAPS IT WON'T.

THE TRAIL SPLITS OFF INTO SIX DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS, DISAPPEARING INTO THE DEPTHS OF SPACE.

ONCE AGAIN, THANOS HAS OUTFOXED ME.

HE FORESAW THE POSSIBILITY OF MY TRACKING HIM SO AND DEVISED A MEANS TO THWART ME.

ALWAYS ONE STEP AHEAD.

SEVERAL HOURS LATER ON TITAN, A MOON OF SATURN, A CONSTRUCT WORLD RULED BY GENTLE MENTOR.

YES, EVEN AS A CHILD, THANOS WAS TERRIBLY CLEVER.

OF COURSE, THAT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN A HARDSHIP IF THE LAD HADN'T BEEN SO CONTEMPTIBLY EVIL, ALSO.

I AM SORRY ABOUT DREDGING UP SUCH *PAINFUL MEMORIES* FOR YOU, MENTOR.

BUT *CAPTAIN AMERICA* CLAIMED YOU WOULD BE MY *BEST SOURCE* FOR INFORMATION ON THANOS.

AND I'LL *GLADLY* GIVE IT, FOR MY *FIRST BORN* IS TRULY THE *DEVIL* PERSONIFIED.

AS I SAID, THANOS WAS ALWAYS A *PROBLEM* AS A *CHILD*: TANTRUMS, SNEAKING AROUND, CAUSING TROUBLE.

I THOUGHT HE'D GROW OUT OF IT,

THEN HIS MOTHER DIED IN A *HORRENDOUS ACCIDENT.*

AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT WE *THOUGHT* IT WAS AT THE TIME.

YEARS LATER, IT BECAME TERRIBLY APPARENT THAT THANOS *MURDERED* HER.

HE WAS ONLY *TEN YEARS OLD* AT THE TIME. WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT?

EIGHT YEARS LATER, HE KILLED A *YOUNG GIRL* IN THE SAME FASHION.

THE *MONSTER* HELD HER CAPTIVE IN THE WOODS FOR A *WEEK* BEFORE HE FINALLY DID AWAY WITH HER.

WHEN WE FINALLY FOUND HER... IT WAS GHASTLY.

"THANOS FLED FROM TITAN BEFORE WE COULD APPREHEND HIM.

"HE GREW TO FULL MANHOOD OUT ON THE PERILOUS *OUTER RIM* OF THE *GALAXY*.

"HE WAS HEIR TO *GREAT POWER*, AND THOSE WILD TERRITORIES TAUGHT HIM HOW TO USE THOSE GIFTS *RUTHLESSLY*.

"HE *SURVIVED* AND *PROSPERED* WITHIN THAT ENVIRON FOR MORE THAN EIGHT DECADES.

AND THEN HE RETURNED HOME, TRULY A *FORCE* TO BE RECKONED WITH.

PEACEFUL TITAN FELL EASILY BEFORE HIS *DARK MIGHT*.

PLEASE TELL ME ABOUT IT.

MEANWHILE, NOT FIFTY PACES AWAY, IN THE PLANET'S OUTER DEFENSE MONITORING STATION.

WHAT'S THIS?

SOMETHING ON THE SCANNER, *MASTER EROS*?

ANOTHER *VISITOR* FROM SPACE. TWO IN ONE DAY? AMAZING.

THIS ONE ALSO ARRIVES *WITHOUT* BENEFIT OF *SPACE CRAFT*.

I WONDER WHO...

WELL, A SLIGHT *ADJUSTMENT* TO THE MONITOR WILL TELL ME, AND...

BY THE GREAT NEBULA!!

MENTOR MUST BE INFORMED IMMEDIATELY!

BECAUSE OF *PAST EXPERIENCE*, AND WHAT YOU'VE TOLD ME ABOUT YOUR *RECENT ENCOUNTER* WITH THANOS, I MUST WARN YOU, SURFER...

...TAKE SERIOUSLY HIS THREAT TO KILL OFF *HALF* THE *POPULATION* OF THE *UNIVERSE*.

EVEN BEFORE *RETURNING* FROM THE *DEAD*, THANOS WAS QUITE *CAPABLE* AND *WILLING* TO ACCOMPLISH JUST SUCH A DASTARDLY ACT.

BUT WHY?

BECAUSE HE WAS ALWAYS *FASCINATED* BY AND HAD AN INCOMPREHENSIBLE *RELATIONSHIP* WITH *DEATH*.

THANOS HAS LONG SERVED THAT *DARK MISTRESS* EXTREMELY WELL.

THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO STOP THANOS FROM ACHIEVING HIS MAD GOAL.

YOU WILL HAVE TO KILL MY SON.

YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE. YOU...

WHAT'S THIS?

IT SOUNDS LIKE MY OTHER SON...

...EROS!?

WE'VE MET.*

*SILVER SURFER #19.--CRAIG

BUT I DON'T BELIEVE I KNOW THIS OTHER GENTLEMAN.

HIS NAME IS DRAX, THE DESTROYER!

OF COURSE, NOW I RECOGNIZE HIM FROM THE *AVENGERS' FILES.*

HE SEEMS CHANGED.

WHERE IS THANOS?!

FUU

IN MORE WAYS THAN ARE IMMEDIATELY APPARENT. DRAX ALWAYS HAD SOME *STRANGE BOND* WITH THANOS.

DRAX WAS CREATED BY *CHRONOS*, THE GOD OF TITAN, TO *PUNISH* THANOS.

AN ADMITTEDLY *HALF-HEARTED* ATTEMPT AT *DISCIPLINE*.

WHERE'S THANOS?

CHRONOS GRAFTED THE *UNCONTROLLABLE DESIRE* TO SEE THANOS DESTROYED ONTO THE *SOUL* OF A *DEAD EARTHMAN*.

HOW DID HE DO THAT?

WHO KNOWS?

HE THEN HOUSED THAT *ODD COMBINATION* INSIDE THE NEARLY *INDESTRUCTIBLE BRUTE* THAT NOW STANDS BEFORE YOU.

LOOKS *FORMIDABLE*.

HE IS, BUT *NOT* VERY *EFFICIENT*.

WHERE'S THANOS?

MY GUESS IS THAT THE *ODD NATURE* OF THANOS'S REVIVAL HAS *ADVERSELY AFFECTED* THE DESTROYER'S CURRENT *REANIMATION*.

IN THE PAST, HE WAS ALWAYS *UNERRINGLY GUIDED* TO THANOS BY SOME WEIRD *SIXTH SENSE*.

IS THERE SOMETHING *WRONG* WITH HIM--ASKING THAT *SAME QUESTION*, OVER AND OVER AGAIN?

THUS, WE WERE SPARED THE *BOTHER* OF ALL THESE *REPETITIOUS* INQUIRIES.

SURFER.

WHERE'S THANOS?

YES, WHAT DO YOU WANT?

OH, NOTHING.

IT WOULD APPEAR THAT *DRAX* HAS BEEN DIRECTING HIS QUESTIONS TO *YOU* ALL THIS TIME.

HE MUST *SENSE* YOUR *RECENT PROXIMITY* TO MY SON.

WHERE IS THANOS?

I WISH I KNEW THAT MYSELF.

WHERE?

I *DON'T* KNOW.

NOT VERY BRIGHT, IS HE?

SUFFERED BRAIN DEATH IN HIS LAST INCARNATION.

WHERE?

WHERE?

I DON'T KNOW!

AND I REPEAT, I DON'T KNOW!

UNDERSTAND?

YES... SORT OF.

THEN THAT SETTLES THAT.

NO, IT DON'T.

DESTROYER SENSES YOU MEET THANOS AGAIN SOON.

THAT'S HEARTENING NEWS, I THINK.

SO DESTROYER STICK WITH YOU UNTIL THEN.

I DON'T THINK SO. I TRAVEL BEST ALONE.

MENTOR, THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HELP. I'LL BE GOING NOW.

THAT FEAT MAY BE MORE EASILY SAID THAN DONE.

WHAT?!

THE BRUTE IS ACTUALLY HOLDING MY BOARD IN PLACE, KEEPING ME FROM TAKING OFF!

HOW?

THE DESTROYER HAS ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO TAP INTO SOME SEEMINGLY LIMITLESS POWER RESERVOIR.

CHRONOS'S GIFT TO DRAX FOR DEALING WITH THANOS, I SUPPOSE.

WELL, THE SILVER SURFER ALSO KNOWS SOMETHING ABOUT POWER AND TACTICS.

LET US SEE HOW THIS DESTROYER FARES WHEN I SHIFT MY MOMENTUM INTO...

...REVERSE GEAR!

BYE, GUYS!

HAVE FUN!

EROS, I'M SHOCKED!

THOSE ARE TWO EXTREMELY POWERFUL BEINGS IN CONFLICT!

TWO EXTREMELY POWERFUL BOOBS.

THEY COULD END UP KILLING ONE ANOTHER!

YEAH, WOULDN'T THAT BE GREAT! BUT I DOUBT WE'LL BE THAT LUCKY.

MEANWHILE, ABOVE THE METHANE OUTER ATMOSPHERE OF TITAN...

CAN'T SHAKE THE BEHEMOTH FROM MY BOARD, NO MATTER WHAT MANEUVER I TRY.

I'D LIKE TO AVOID DIRECT PHYSICAL CONFRONTATION WITH THIS SIMPLETON, IF I CAN.

HE'S NOT EVIL, JUST OVERLY ANNOYING.

THAT ASTEROID MIGHT PROVE TO BE THE ANSWER TO MY PROBLEM.

LET US GO FIND THANOS.

WELL, THAT'S THE END OF THAT NONSENSE.

I FEEL SOMEWHAT *BAD* ABOUT DEALING WITH DRAX IN SUCH A MANNER.

BUT I SENSED HE POSSESSED ENOUGH *POWER* TO BE NO MORE THAN *SHAKEN UP* BY THAT STUNT.

I HAD TO LOSE HIM. NO TELLING WHAT *PROBLEMS* HE'D CREATE FOR ME WHILE SEARCHING FOR *THANOS*.

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN LIKE TRAVELING WITH THE *HULK*.

NOW TO... HUH?

WHERE'S THANOS?
WE'RE BACK TO THAT POINT, ARE WE?
WHAT DO YOU SAY TO A LITTLE DIP INTO THE SUN, TO SEE HOW FIREPROOF YOU ARE?
YOU CAN HOP OFF ANYTIME IT GETS TOO HOT FOR YOU, DRAX.
YOU CAN FLY, CAN'T YOU?

WHERE'S THANOS?

THAT WAS A COMPLETE WASTE OF TIME.

TELL ME, DRAX, ARE YOU CAPABLE OF *FEELING* ANY *PAIN*?

ONLY THE *ACHING DESIRE* TO SEE THANOS *DEAD*.

A TRULY *ONE TRACK THOUGHT PROCESS*. BUT WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH HIM?

AT THIS RATE, IT MIGHT TAKE ME *DAYS* TO ELUDE HIM, DAYS I CAN'T *WASTE* SO FOOLISHLY.

THE *IMPOSSIBLE MAN* CLAIMED I NEEDED TO GET MORE *HUMOR* IN MY LIFE.

THAT *ADVICE* MIGHT PROVE *APPROPRIATE* IN THIS CASE.

THE DESTROYER HAS THE SOUL OF AN *EARTHMAN*, PROBABLY AN *AMERICAN*, FROM THE SOUND OF HIS VOICE...

TAKE ME TO THANOS.

DRAX, I JUST *REMEMBERED* A WAY TO LOCATE THANOS.

HOW? TELL ME HOW!

THERE ARE MACHINES BACK ON *EARTH* THAT CAN LOCATE THANOS FOR US.

EARTH?

YES, YOU REMEMBER EARTH. THESE DEVICES ARE CALLED *INFORMATION MACHINES*.

BUT WE MUST BE *PATIENT* WITH THESE MACHINES.

SOMETIMES IT TAKES THEM A WHILE TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION.

FOOLISHLY... PERHAPS I'M GOING ABOUT THIS IN THE *WRONG WAY*.

ONE OF THESE *MIRACLE MACHINES* CAN BE FOUND AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE *FANTASTIC FOUR*.

I'M SURE MY FRIEND, THE *HUMAN TORCH*, WILL LET US BORROW IT.

INFORMATION MACHINE? YOU MEAN A COMPUTER?

NO, I MEAN THE *WONDROUS DEVICE* YOU HAVE IN THIS ROOM.

IN THERE?

THE ONLY MACHINE IN THERE IS..

EXACTLY! THE *INFORMATION MACHINE!*

HAVE A SEAT, DRAX.

WHY DON'T YOU CHECK BACK WITH US IN ABOUT FOUR HOURS, JOHNNY.

SURE... WHATEVER YOU SAY.

LUCY...?

DESTROYER REMEMBER *LUCY*.

OF COURSE YOU DO. SIT BACK AND RELAX.

LUUUUCCCCY, WHAT YOU DONE THIS TIME? JUST LOOK AT DIS MESS!

A HORSE IS A *HORSE*, OF COURSE, OF COURSE, AND NOBODY CAN TALK TO A *HORSE*, OF COURSE...

LIL' JOE AND *HOSS* WILL CHECK OUT THE LOWER FORTY WHILE *ADAM* AND I...

FASTER THAN A *SPEEDING BULLET*, ABLE TO LEAP OVER THE TOP OF TALL BUILDINGS IN A *SINGLE BOUND*...

...AND UP FROM THE GROUND COMES A BUBBLING *CRUDE*-- OIL THAT IS, BLACK GOLD, TEXAS TEA--

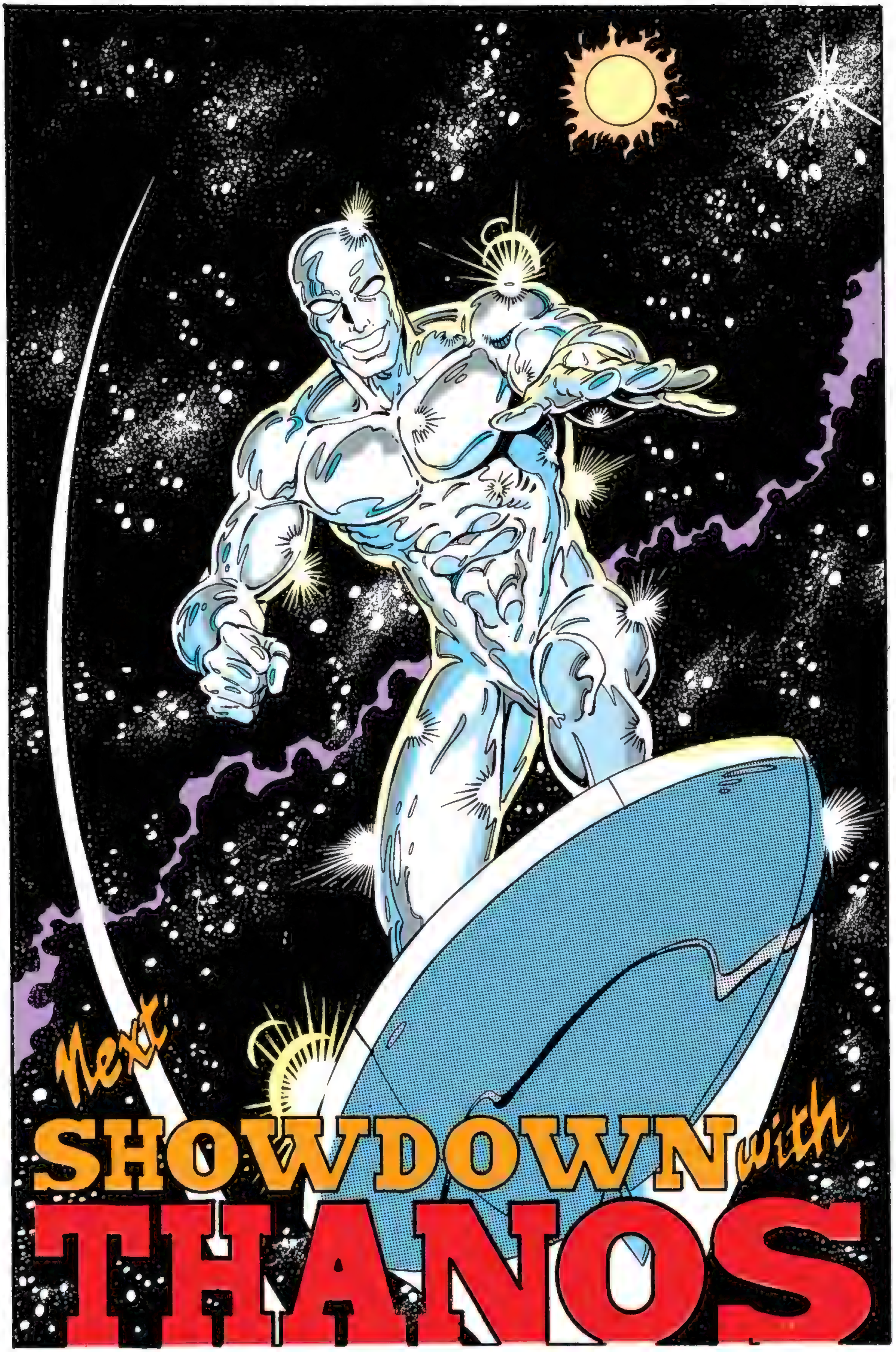
HAVE *GUN*, WILL *TRAVEL*, READS THE CARD OF THE MAN, A *SOLDIER* OF *FORTUNE* IN A *SAVAGE LAND*.

I'M FIXIN' ON MEETIN' *AUNT BEA* AND *OPIE* AT THE PICNIC, AND...

...AND STARRING *JERRY MATHERS* AS THE *BEAVER*!

HUH?

WHERE SURFER?


Next
SHOWDOWN with
THANOS

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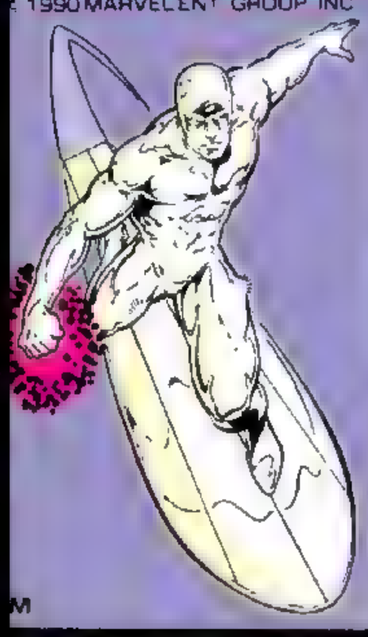

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THE SILVER SURFER®

VS. THANOS™

ONLY ONE WILL SURVIVE!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: SILVER SURFER

DEEP WITHIN A FAR-OFF CORNER OF THE UNIVERSE, THE STARSHIP SANCTUARY III, ONCE THE PROUD FLAGSHIP OF THANOS'S MIGHTY ARMADA.

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE NATURE OF THIS ACTIVITY?

PARTIALLY, CAPTAIN NEBULA.*

THE EARLY WAVES WERE A FORM OF PROBE SCAN, BUT NOW IT'S CHANGED... CAN'T FIGURE IT...

BUT WHATEVER IT IS SEEMS TO BE CURRENTLY FOCUSING RIGHT HERE ON THE BRIDGE!

*NEBULA WAS LAST SEEN IN AVENGERS #318.--CRAIG

... PICKING UP STRANGE MICROWAVE ACTIVITY ON THE SENSORS.

LOOK!

BY THE NAV-STATION!

NOT WHAT... WHO?

SURELY MOST OF YOU *RECOGNIZE* MIGHTY **THANOS!**

COME TO *RECLAIM* WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY *HIS.*

WHAT MADNESS IS THIS?

IT IS! IT IS THE MASTER!!

HE HAS AT LONG LAST *RETURNED* FROM THE *DEAD!*

THE *PROPHECIES!* THEY ARE *FULFILLED!*

THE ANSWER!!!

JIM STARLIN: writer - RON LIM: penciler - TOM CHRISTOPHER: inker
KEN BRUZENAK: letterer - TOM VINCENT: colorist
CRAIG ANDERSON: editor - TOM DeFALCO: chief

YOU FOOLS! HAVE YOU ALL TAKEN LEAVE OF YOUR WITS?

MY GRANDFATHER IS LONG DEAD AND GONE!

THIS MAN IS OBVIOUSLY AN IMPOSTOR!

SO YOU ARE THE USURPER, WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE MY DARK BLOOD FLOWING THROUGH HER VEINS?

USURPER?

CLAIMS?

GEATAR! DEAL WITH THIS!

STAND ASIDE, MY MISTRESS! I SHALL...

GEATAR!

DEAR "GRANDCHILD," IT APPEARS YOUR PARAMOUR IS NOT UP TO THE TASK YOU SET FOR HIM.

STAY BACK, YOU DEVIL! SECURITY! TO MY SIDE!

IT TRULY IS THE MASTER!

WASTE NOT YOUR FINAL BREATH ON *FUTILE PLEAS*, HARLOT.

PREPARE YOURSELF TO DO *PENANCE*, INSTEAD.

YOUR *SINS* ARE *MANY*, WOMAN: TREASON, THEFT, PRIDE, DECEIT--TOO MANY TO CATALOGUE.

BUT THE MOST *CRAVEN* OF THE WRONGS IS YOUR *UNMITIGATED CONCEIT!*

TO CLAIM THAT *THANOS*, DEATH'S TRUEST SERVANT, WOULD DROP *PROGENY!*

NOW THAT IS TRULY *UNFORGIVABLE.*

NO!

PLEASE!

TRULY UNFORGIVABLE.

NO!

GO AFTER HER.

SEE THAT THE BODY IS DISPOSED OF.

YES, MASTER.

WHO SERVES AS *FIRST OFFICER* ABOARD THIS VESSEL?

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

CAPT--?

:uuggghh:

YOU STILL LIVE!!

DON'T WORRY, MY CAPTAIN... I'LL GET YOU TO SAFETY...

THERE'S A PLACE... I KNOW ON THE SHIP.

I'LL HIDE YOU THERE... NO ONE EVER COMES THERE...

...YOU'LL BE SAFE... YOU'LL HAVE TIME TO HEAL...

...EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT...

...YOU'LL SEE...

THEN YOU *CLEARLY UNDERSTAND* THE ORDERS I'VE GIVEN YOU?

PERFECTLY, SIR, EVEN THOUGH I DON'T SEE WHY--

THERE IS NO NEED FOR YOU TO *SEE* WHY, FIRST OFFICER STYX, YOU NEED ONLY *OBEY!*

YES, SIR.

IN THE MEANTIME, I'LL...

...I'LL...

I'LL BE AWAY FOR A WHILE. I EXPECT ALL MY *ORDERS* WILL HAVE BEEN *EXECUTED* BY THE TIME I RETURN.

MOST DEFINITELY, SIR.

LAST

YOU SUMMON ME, *MISTRESS DEATH*, AND I ANSWER.

NOW MAY I BE OF SERVICE?

THAT'S AN ODD QUESTION TO ASK, LACKEY.

MISTRESS DEATH WISHES TO KNOW WHY YOU ARE NOT ABOUT, DOING THE GOOD WORK ALREADY ASSIGNED YOU?

HALF THE POPULATION OF YOUR UNIVERSE AWAITS DEATH BY YOUR HAND.

WHERE ARE THE SOULS YOU HAVE BEEN SENT TO HARVEST?

THE TASK PROCEEDS ACCORDING TO PLAN. IT IS A JOB BEST TAKEN SLOWLY.

MOVE TOO QUICKLY AND ALL THE FORCES OF THE UNIVERSE WILL ALLY THEMSELVES AGAINST US.

AND ONE OF THOSE FORCES WOULD BE THE SILVER SURFER.

MISTRESS, YOU YOURSELF WARNED ME THAT HE BE THE GREATEST PERIL TO OUR QUEST'S COSMIC WEAVE.

THE SURFER HOLDS A SPECIAL POSITION WITHIN THE CELESTIAL BALANCE.

THIS STATION MIGHT ENABLE HIM TO TOPPLE OUR CAREFULLY HONED PLANS, DESPITE THE FACT THAT HIS IS A MEAGER POWER BASE.

BECAUSE OF THIS, I HAVE AVOIDED DIRECT CONFLICT WITH THIS BEING, THOUGH WITH MY POWER, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO CRUSH HIM LIKE AN INSECT.

WE PLAN A GAME OF GALACTIC PROPORTIONS.

SO EACH MOVE MUST BE PLAYED WITH CONSUMMATE SKILL AND CARE.

I HAVE DEVISED A METHOD WITH WHICH TO DEAL THE SURFER OUT OF THIS CONTEST.

THE STRATEGY CAME TO ME WHILE STARING DEEPLY INTO THIS, THE INFINITY WELL.

WHICH SHOULD COME AS NO SURPRISE.

FOR THE ANSWER TO ALL QUESTIONS ARE TO BE FOUND WITHIN THE INFINITE.

HALF A UNIVERSE AWAY.

I SEEK A VILE CREATURE, KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE STARS AS THANOS OF TITAN.

NOT THANOS, THE DEATH WORSHIPPER?!

THE SAME.

NO LONGER.

I HEARD HE WAS DEAD.

MAY THE HOLY STARS PRESERVE US.

BETTER TO PUT YOUR FAITH IN ME.

SORRY, MATE, THIS IS THE FIRST WE'VE HEARD OF THAT DEVIL'S RETURN.

BUT IF WE DO PICK UP ON ANYTHING...?

CONTACT MENTOR OF TITAN.

HE WILL PASS THE WORD ON TO ME.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME. NOW I MUST BE OFF.

IMAGINE THAT, AFTER THANOS HIMSELF.

BUT IF OL' CHROME FACE AIN'T CAREFUL HE JUST MIGHT FIND HIM.

THEN HE'D BE IN FOR IT.

I SEEK A VILE CREATURE, KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE STARS AS THANOS OF TITAN.

I HEAR THAT, MATE.

HE IS A KILLER OF WORLDS, SEEKING TO PAINT THE COSMOS BLOOD SCARLET.

HE LURKS, PERHAPS, WITHIN THE VAST EMPTINESS OF SPACE; A MINISCULE YET DANGEROUS ENEMY LOST AMIDST THE ENDLESS PANORAMA.

OR, PERHAPS, HIS HIDDEN LAIR IS OFF IN AN ALTERNATE DIMENSION, A MERE BREATH AND AN INFINITY AWAY.

WHERE WILL I FIND THIS DEMON? WHERE DOES HE HIDE?

WHERE?

PERHAPS RIGHT BEHIND YOU.

THANOS!

NO. ONLY A PROJECTION.

I AM PRESENTLY ON A PLANET NAMED *PYRAXLON.*

I KNOW THAT WORLD.

THEN I WOULD SUGGEST *HASTENING* TO IT, WHILE IT YET *EXISTS.*

THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO *SETTLE* THE *DIFFERENCES* THAT EXIST BETWEEN US.

YOU NO LONGER SEEK TO *CONVERT* ME TO THE *RIGHTEOUSNESS* OF YOUR CAUSE?

DID YOU EVER *TRULY BELIEVE* THAT WAS MY INTENTION?

NO, I IMAGINED IT NOTHING MORE THAN A *PLOY* TO KEEP ME *OFF GUARD.*

A GAMBIT THAT IS NO LONGER NECESSARY.

I AWAIT YOUR ARRIVAL ON *PYRAXLON.*

YOU NEED NOT WAIT LONG, VILLAIN.

YES, I'M VERY FAMILIAR WITH PYRAXLON, A *SCIENTIFICALLY ADVANCED* WORLD.

ITS POPULACE HAS SOLVED ITS *ENERGY NEEDS* BY TAPPING INTO THE SUBTERRANEAN *GEO-THERMAL BANDS* WHICH CRISSCROSS THE ENTIRE PLANET.

IT IS A WONDROUS TECHNOLOGICAL ACCOMPLISHMENT.

BUT IT IS ALSO A PRECARIOUS BALANCING ACT TO MAINTAIN, MONITORING THE THERMAL FLOW.. TO AVOID OVERHEATING AND MELTDOWN.

IT IS THE PERFECT PLACE FOR A CAREFULLY TAILORED ACCIDENT, SOMETHING LIKE A THERMAL OVERLOAD.

SURELY THAT IS WHY THANOS HAS LURED ME HERE, TO WITNESS ANOTHER OF HIS DESIGNER CATASTROPHES.

HE'S CRAFTING A DISASTER THAT WILL WIPE OUT HALF THE POPULACE OF PRAXLON.

STILL GOING ABOUT HIS DARK MISTRESS'S BIDDING. STILL ATTEMPTING TO BALANCE HER VIEW OF THE COSMOS.

BUT THIS TIME AROUND, I'VE A *SURPRISE* IN STORE FOR THANOS.

WHEN LAST WE MET, I TOOK NOTE OF HIS *TELEPORTATION MODULE'S* UNIQUE *ENERGY SIGNATURE.*

IN AN ENVIRONMENT HEAVY WITH *THERMAL ENERGIES*, HIS CRAFT'S *PECULIAR EMANATIONS* WILL STAND OUT LIKE A RED FLAG.

NARROWING MY VISION DOWN TO *MICROWAVE FREQUENCIES* WILL ALLOW ME TO PINPOINT THANOS'S EXACT *LOCATION.*

THERE!

THANOS AWAITS IN ONE OF THE *MAIN CONDUITS* ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE CITY.

THANOS! I HAVE COME FOR YOU!

I SEE YOU CAUGHT ON TO *TRACING* MY CRAFT'S ENERGY SIGNATURE, JUST AS I *HOPED* YOU WOULD.

IT'S *GRATIFYING* TO KNOW THAT THERE IS AT LEAST *ONE BEING* IN THE UNIVERSE WHO WILL *ACT* AND *REACT* EXACTLY AS YOU CALCULATE.

IN SOME WAYS, SURFER, IT'S BEEN A *TRUE PLEASURE* DEALING WITH YOU.

I'VE COME TO PUT AN *END* TO YOUR *CALCULATING EVIL*, TITAN.

NO QUARTER WILL BE GIVEN OR EXPECTED IN THIS CONFLICT, VILLAIN!

NO MERCY FOR THE MURDERER OF MILLIONS!

AN *EMPTY BOAST* YOU'VE NEITHER THE *SKILL* NOR *POWER* TO REALIZE, SURFER.

THANOS, YOU UNDERESTIMATE THE MIGHT OF THE *POWER COSMIC*.

YOU ARE...

...GONE.

TELEPORTED AWAY, ONCE AGAIN, TO SAFETY.

PERDITION!

STAND YOUR GROUND, VILLAIN! FIGHT LIKE...

...A PHANTOM, FADING IN AND OUT OF REALITY AT ITS CHOOSING.

BUT FOR SOME REASON HE CHOOSES NOW TO BREAK OFF THE ENCOUNTER.

BUT THANOS'S CRAFT'S ENERGY EMISSIONS WILL ONCE AGAIN LEAD ME TO HIM.

A NEW STRATEGY IS IN ORDER; GO FOR THE VESSEL, NOT THE MAN.

CUT OFF HIS MEANS OF ESCAPE.

TURN AND FACE ME, TITAN!

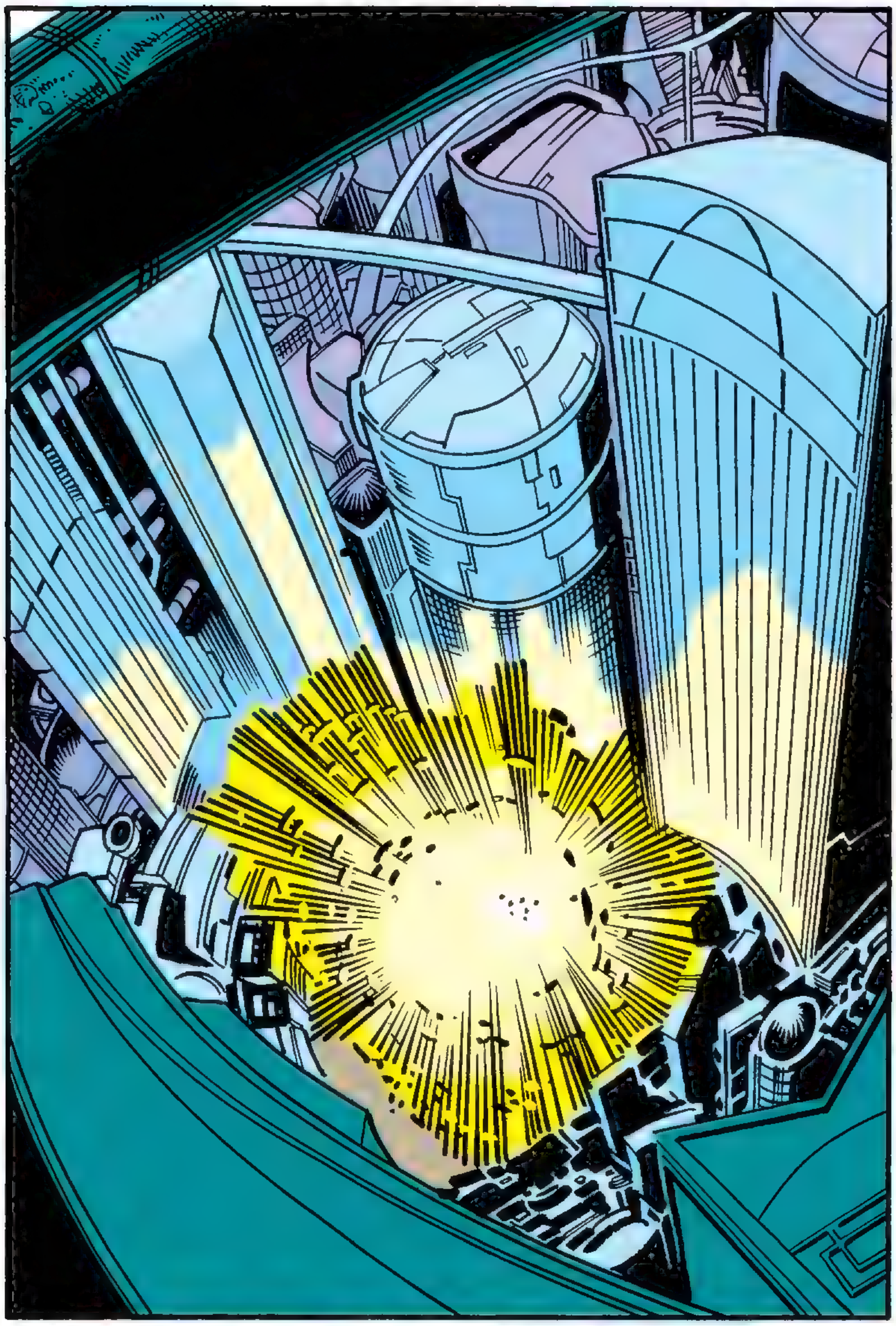
HUH?

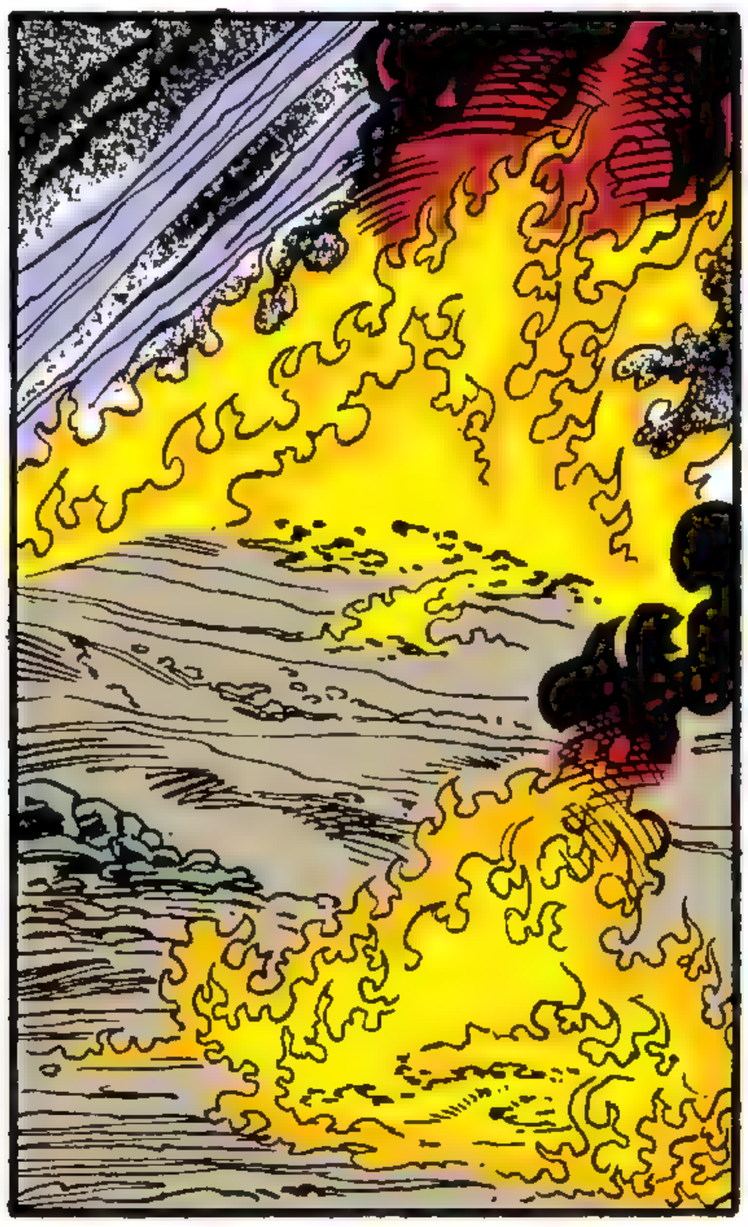
LET THERE BE AN END TO THE SENSELESS KILLING!

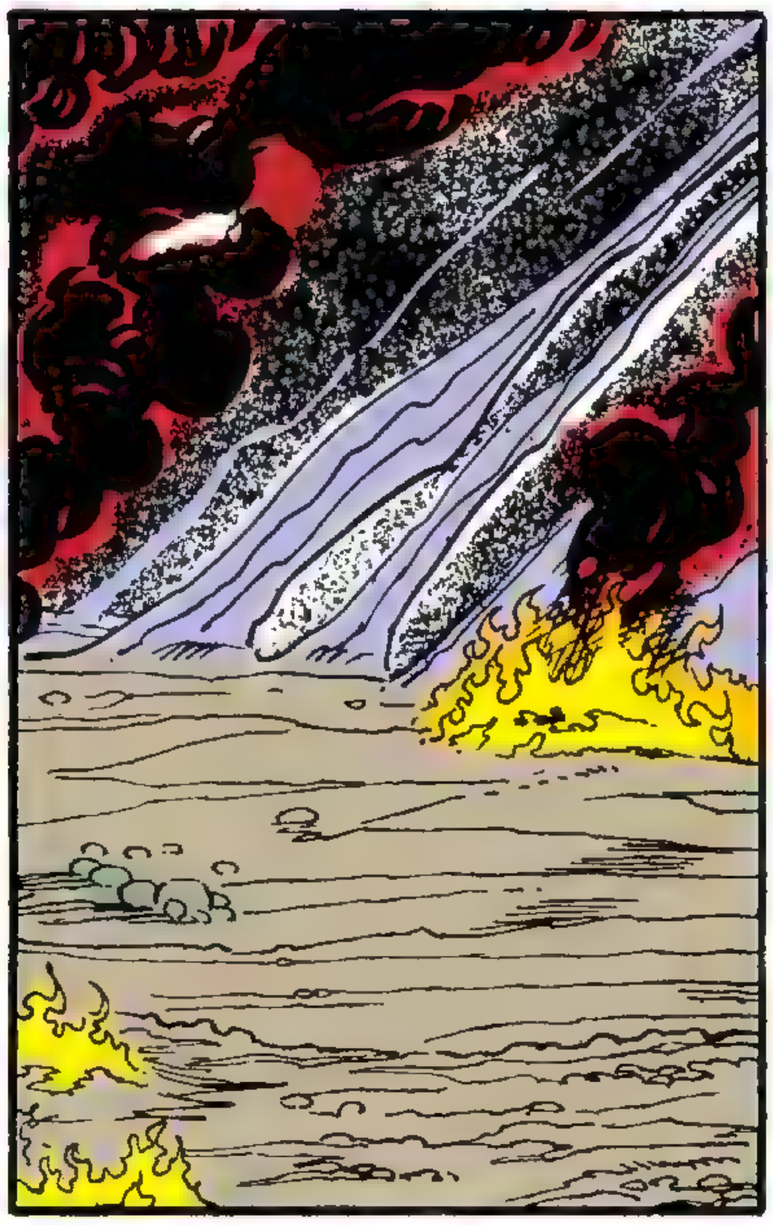
NO...

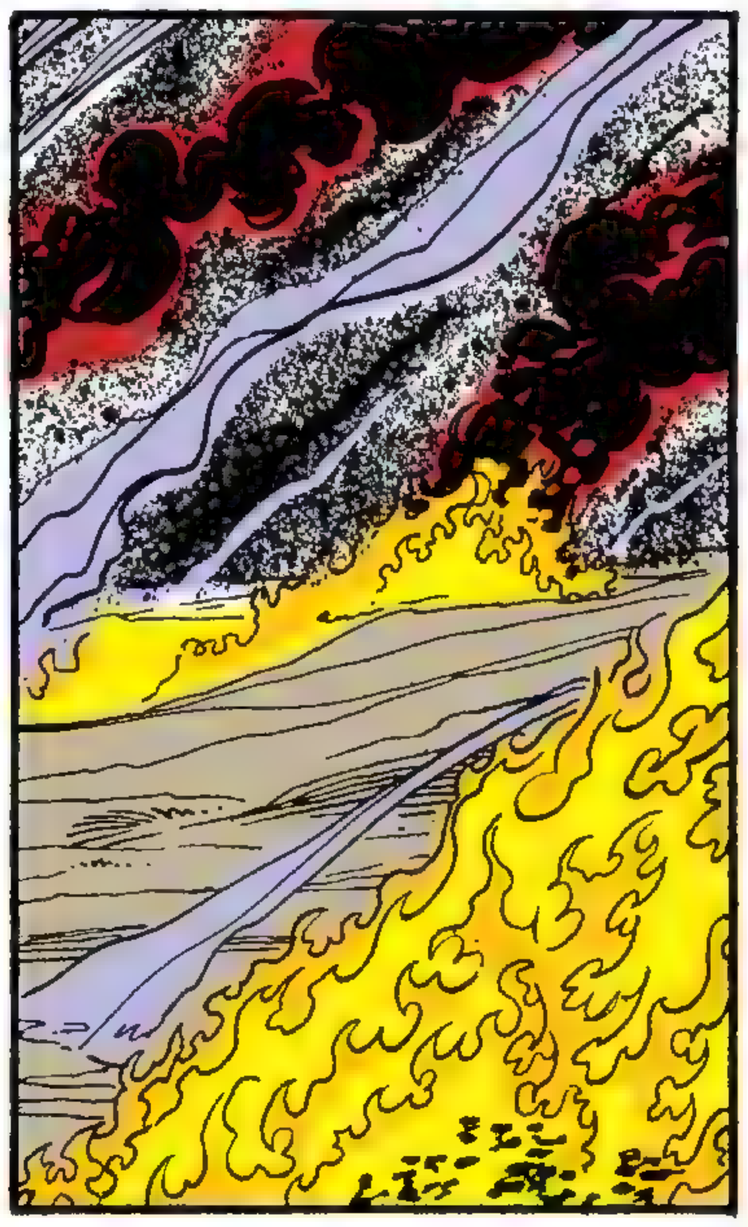
...PLEASE...

AN END TO YOUR DARK INSANITY!









I DID NOT EXPECT SUCH A *POWERFUL RELEASE OF ENERGY* FROM THE DESTRUCTION OF THANOS'S VESSEL.

MY *COSMIC SENSES* SHOW THAT THE PYRAXLONS *EVACUATED* THIS SECTOR OF TOWN AS SOON AS THEY DETECTED *THANOS'S* AND *MY PRESENCE.*

THANK THE STARS.

FOR I FEAR OUR BATTLE IS NOT YET *OVER. I* SURVIVED THAT BLAST, AND SO, I MUST SURMISE, DID *THANOS.*

HEAR ME, VILLAIN! *I AM COMING FOR YOU!*

I SHALL NOT REST UNTIL...

...I...

...I...

...NO...

THIS... THIS WAS NOT MY INTENTION.

IT WAS NOT MEANT TO END... LIKE THIS...

BUT PERHAPS THIS WAS THE *ONLY WAY* IT COULD END.

EVIL THANOS PLAYED WITH *FORCES* BEYOND *MORTAL RECKONING.*

A SURE-FIRE MEANS OF SELF-DESTRUCTION.

BUT STILL, I CANNOT LEAVE HIM LIKE THIS.

TRUE, HE WAS AN INSANE SCOUNDREL, DESERVING LITTLE IF ANY CONSIDERATION, EVEN IN DEATH.

BUT HIS FATHER, WISE AND GENTLE MENTOR, WILL STILL SUFFER FROM THANOS'S DEATH.

PERHAPS THE INTERMENT OF HIS SON'S REMAINS, BACK ON TITAN, WILL EASE THE LOSS.

AND SUCH A MOVE WILL GET THE WORD OUT AMONG THE STARS.

THANOS, THE MAD TITAN, SERVANT OF DEATH, SLAYER OF WORLDS, IS DEAD.

SUCH NEWS WILL ALLOW A FRAGILE UNIVERSE TO REST A BIT EASIER TONIGHT.

LET IT BE KNOWN THAT THE REPORTS OF MY *DEMISE* HAVE BEEN GROSSLY *EXAGGERATED*.

BUT DON'T LET THE *SILVER SURFER* IN ON THE *SECRET*.

HE'D BE *CRUSHED* TO KNOW THAT IT IS THE BODY OF *GEATAR*, NEBULA'S PERSONAL BODYGUARD AND LOVER, THAT HE TRANSPORTS BACK TO TITAN.

BEFORE DEPARTING THE *SANCTUARY III*, I ORDERED GEATAR *SURGICALLY ALTERED* TO BE MY DOUBLE.

IT WAS ALL PART OF THE *GRAND PLAN* THAT HE DIE IN *MY PLACE*.

NOW THE SURFER THINKS ME *DEAD*, AND WILL *CONCENTRATE* HIS ATTENTIONS *ELSEWHERE*.

THUS TAKING HIMSELF OUT OF THE *COSMIC WEAVE* CONCERNING MY AFFAIRS.

YES, I'M AWARE THAT HE'LL EVENTUALLY DISCOVER MY *LITTLE RUSE*. BUT BY THEN, IT *WON'T* REALLY MATTER.

BY THEN I WILL HAVE ATTAINED MY *END GOAL*.

I WILL POSSESS *SUCH MIGHT* THAT NOT EVEN THE SURFER'S INTERFERENCE WILL BE *WORTH NOTICING*.

"SUCH ARE THE WAYS OF *ULTIMATE POWER*.

BUT SPEAKING OF SUCH *DREAMS* IS PREMATURE. BEST *NOT* TO VOICE THE *UNBELIEVABLE*.

"NOT YET."

THE STARS WILL SOON ENOUGH REALIZE THE TRUE *HORRIFIC SPLENDOR* OF MY HUNGER.

"YES, THANOS DREAMS THE MOST DARK AND *FOREBODING* FANTASIES.

FANTASIES TO CHILL THE SOUL."

AND THOSE *DARK FANTASIES*, AND *OTHER VILE SCHEMES* WILL BE REVEALED IN:

THANOS

THE MINI-SERIES!

TWO BIG SENSE-SHATTERING ISSUES!
ON SALE THIS SUMMER!

MARVEL® COMICS

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THE SILVER SURFER®

WELCOME TO DYNAMO CITY!

TO SAVE HIS PLANET, NORRIN RADD SURRENDERED HIS FREEDOM TO BECOME HERALD TO THE WORLD-DEVOURING GALACTUS. COATED WITH GALACTIC GLAZE, GIVEN A SURFBOARD OBEYING HIS MENTAL COMMANDS, AND GRANTED THE POWER COSMIC, HE NOW SOARS THE UNIVERSE, A SHINING SENTINEL OF THE SPACEWAYS! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . . THE SILVER SURFER!

Welcome to Dynamo City

DEEP WITHIN THE SUBTERRANEAN MAZE OF TITAN, A NATIVE SON HAS RETURNED HOME FOR HIS FINAL REST.

BUT NO TEARS ARE SHED FOR HIM.

...AND I HAD NO IDEA THAT HIS VEHICLE WOULD PROVE SO VULNERABLE OR EXPLOSIVE, MENTOR.

IT WAS NEVER MY INTENTION TO KILL THANOS.

I'M SURE IT COULDN'T BE HELPED, SURFER.

JIM STARLIN - WRITER
RON LIM - PENCILER
TOM CHRISTOPHER - INKER
KEN BRUZENAK - LETTERER
TOM VINCENT - COLORIST
CRAIG ANDERSON - EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO - CHIEF

MY SON WAS A *DARK* AND *TROUBLED SPIRIT* FULL OF TWISTED DRIVES AND EMOTIONS.

NOTHING SHORT OF *DEATH* WOULD HAVE CURBED HIS *MADNESS*.

MENTOR TALKS LIKE HE BELIEVES ALL THIS *GARBAGE*.

THANOS *NOT* BE DEAD.

HUH?

THANOS AND I *LINKED*. CONNECTED BY *COSMIC BINDS*.

DEEP INSIDE ME, I FEEL THANOS BREATHING, *LAUGHING*.

BUT THANOS'S *BODY* LIES BEFORE YOU, DESTROYER. THE SURFER *SAW* HIM DIE.

NOT THANOS!

YOU CAN *ACCEPT LIE* IF YOU WANT; DESTROYER *DOESN'T*.

I SEARCH STARS. THANOS *OUT THERE* AND I *FIND* HIM.

MENTOR, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

COULD HE BE *CORRECT*?

THE DESTROYER'S CURRENT RESURRECTION LEAVES A *LOT* TO BE *DESIRED*. HE'S NOT THE AVENGER OF OLD.

HIS *MENTAL CAPACITY* ISN'T WHAT IT ONCE WAS.

NOR IS HIS ONE-TIME ABILITY TO *TRACK* THANOS. HE IS A *FLAWED REINCARNATION*.

I DON'T BELIEVE HIS PRONOUNCEMENTS SHOULD BE TAKEN *VERY SERIOUSLY*.

THEN I WILL *ACCEPT* WHAT MY EYES SAW AS *FACT*.

I SHALL *BELIEVE* THAT THANOS'S *MORTAL REMAINS* LIE BEFORE ME.

BUT I WILL ALSO REMAIN *VIGILANT*. JUST IN CASE...

BE ABOUT BURYING YOUR DEAD, GENTLE MENTOR, AND *PRAY* THAT HE REMAINS *BURIED*.

MYSELF? THE *STARS* BECKON, AND I *MUST ANSWER*.

MAY THOSE STARS GREET YOU *WARMLY*, SURFER.

FATHER, I WILL SEE TO PREPARING MY *BROTHER'S WAKE*.

THANK YOU, EROS.

ARE YOU TRULY *NOW* AND *FOREVER DEAD*, MY SON?

IS THE UNIVERSE FINALLY RID OF YOUR *INSANE AMBITIONS*?

I PRAY IT IS SO.

IF THERE IS ONE THING LONG YEARS OF TRAVELING AMONG THE STARS HAS TAUGHT ME: IT IS THAT THERE ARE NO CLEAR ANSWERS IN LIFE.

IS EVIL THANOS TRULY DEAD? SOME QUESTIONS ONLY TIME CAN RESOLVE.

SO I WILL ROAM THE HEAVENS, AND I WILL LISTEN AND WATCH.

ONE SUCH AS THANOS CANNOT KEEP HIS ACTIONS LONG HIDDEN. IT IS NOT IN HIS NATURE.

IF HE YET LIVES, I WILL FIND HIM AND DEAL WITH HIM.

DEAL WITH HIM HARSHLY.

ARE YOU THE SILVER SURFER?

WHO?

I REPEAT: ARE YOU THE SILVER SURFER?

A DROID?

I AM.

AND WHO OR WHAT MIGHT YOU BE?

I AM C2DT42, A DEPUTY PROCESS SERVER FROM DYNAMO CITY.

I HAVE BEEN SENT TO *SUMMON* YOU TO A *BOARD OF INQUIRY*, CONCERNING THE DEATH OF THANOS OF TITAN.

IT IS BELIEVED THAT YOU POSSESS *INFORMATION* ON THIS MATTER.

WHAT INTEREST DOES YOUR CITY HAVE IN THANOS'S DEMISE?

THANOS WAS RECENTLY GRANTED *CITIZENSHIP* IN DYNAMO CITY.

BY *LAW*, THE DEATH OF ANY CITIZEN MUST BE *INVESTIGATED*.

THEN LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT THANOS'S DEATH WAS *ACCIDENTAL*, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS *WELL DESERVED*.

HE DIED WHILE ATTEMPTING TO *ANNIHILATE HALF* THE *POPULATION* OF THIS UNIVERSE. HE WAS A *VILLAIN*.

ARE YOU *WILLING* TO *TESTIFY* TO THAT IN A DYNAMO CITY COURT OF LAW?

NO. I'VE MORE *PRESSING MATTERS* TO ATTEND TO.

MIGHT I REMIND YOU THAT THIS IS A *LEGAL SUMMONS*?

THE SILVER SURFER IS *NOT BOUND* BY YOUR *LAWS*.

TRUE, WE CANNOT *FORCE* YOU INTO TESTIFYING *AGAINST* YOUR WILL.

STILL, IT'S A *PITY*.

YOU PROBABLY WOULD HAVE FOUND THANOS'S *LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT* VERY INTERESTING.

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT...

PERHAPS I SHALL ACCOMPANY YOU AFTER ALL, CZDTHZ.

BUT KNOW *THIS*: DYNAMO CITY LAWS HOLD NO *JUDICIAL CONTROL* OVER THE SILVER SURFER.

DO NOT THINK TO *RESTRICT* ME IN ANY WAY.

SUCH A FOOLISH ACT COULD PROVE *HAZARDOUS*.

WARNING DULY NOTED AND RECORDED.

WHAT IS THIS PORTAL?

MERELY AN *INTER-DIMENSIONAL CORRIDOR* TO DYNAMO CITY.

A TIME-SAVING ROUTE.

A REMARKABLE PROCEDURE.

NOT REALLY.

DYNAMO CITY MUST BE QUITE *TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED.*

I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT SO.

BUT THEN I'M A *PRODUCT* OF THAT TECHNOLOGY AND AM NATURALLY *PREJUDICED.*

I DON'T BELIEVE I'VE EVER BEFORE BEEN IN THIS SECTOR OF SPACE.

THIS IS THE *18D-X-M* QUADRANT.

TRAVEL IN THIS SECTOR, NOT DYNAMO CITY RELATED, IS *DISCOURAGED.*

ON WHICH PLANET IS DYNAMO CITY?

PLANET?

DYNAMO CITY IS ON *NO* PLANET.

DYNAMO CITY IS A WORLD UNTO ITSELF!

HERE THE TECHNOLOGY OF POWER HAS REACHED ITS ULTIMATE SUMMIT.

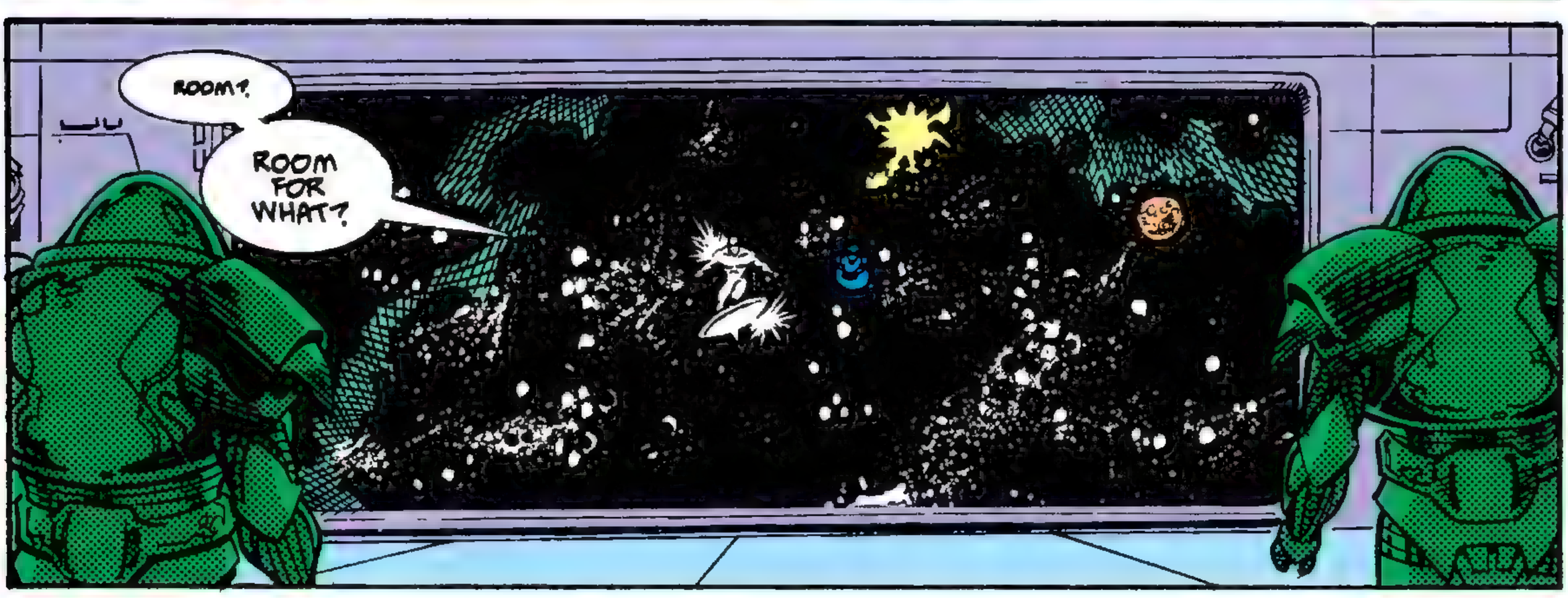
LET ME BE THE FIRST TO WELCOME YOU TO PARADISE, A PARADISE OF SCIENCE AND COMMERCE.

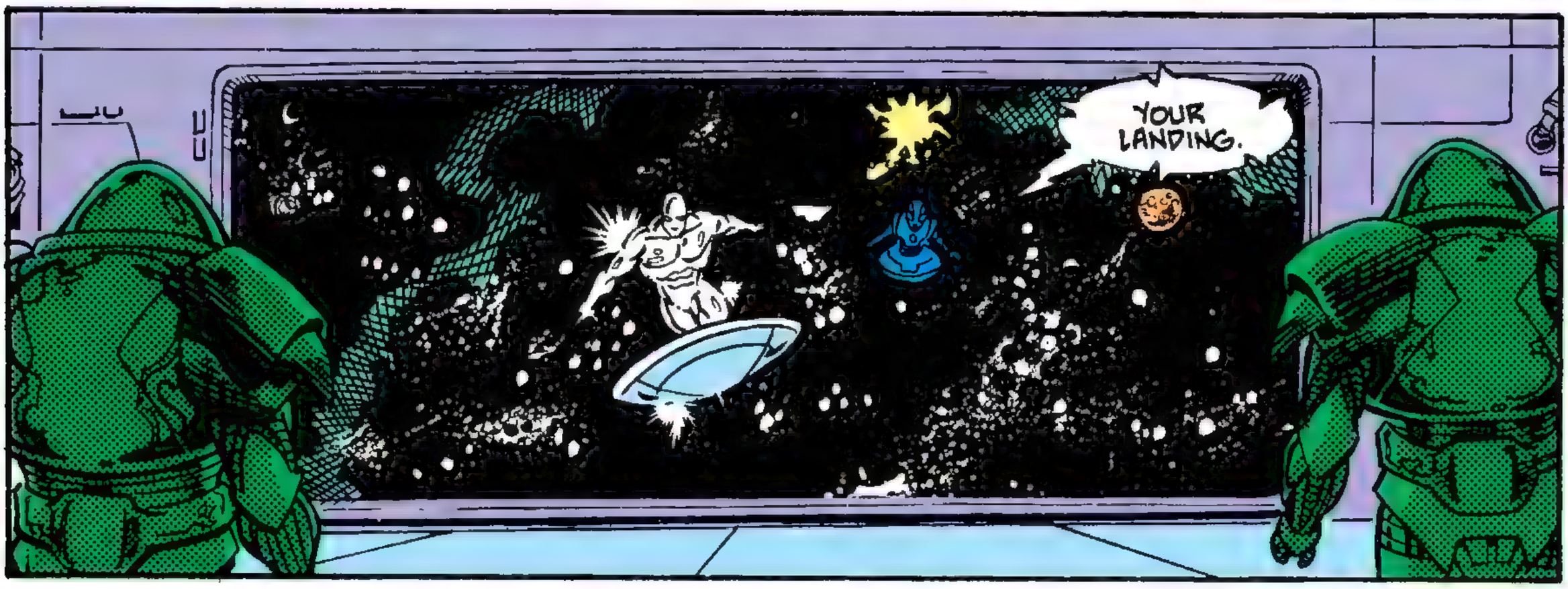
I REALIZED YOU HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF DYNAMO CITY WHEN YOU DECLINED MY SUMMONS.

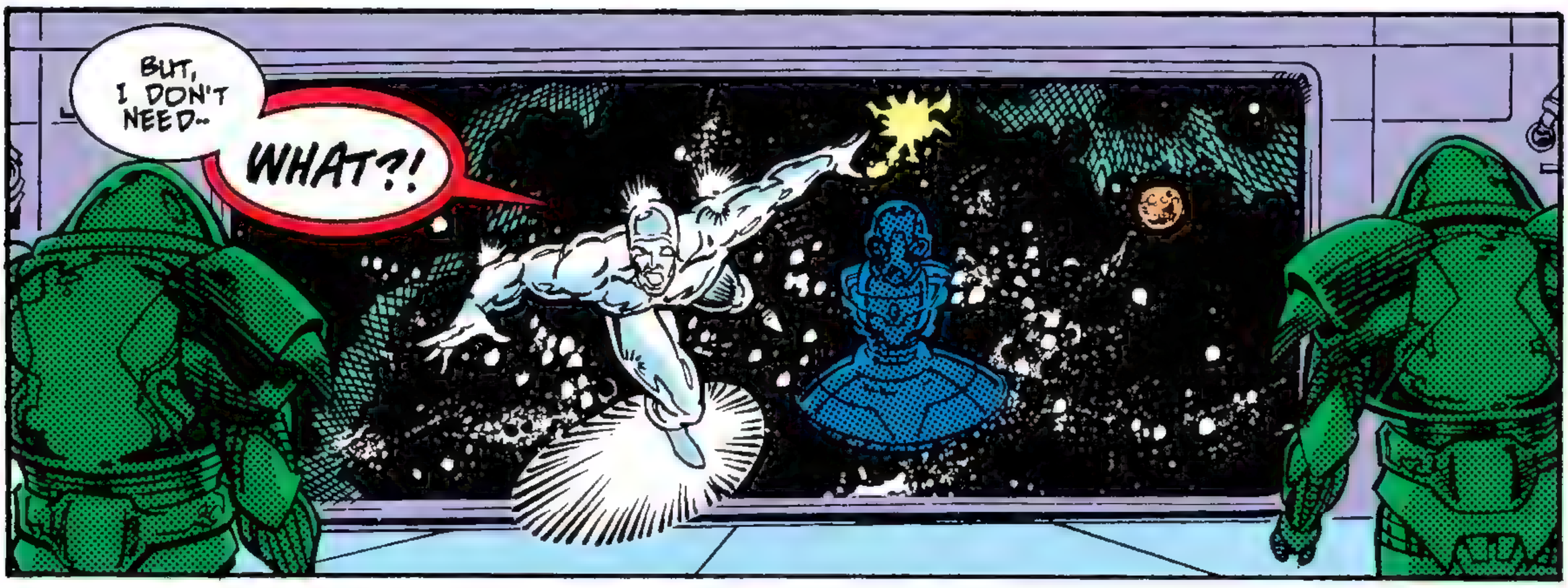
MOST CONSIDER AN INVITATION TO OUR FAIR TOWN THE ULTIMATE HONOR.

I THINK IT BEST WE ENTER THROUGH LANDING BAY # 7.

THAT SHOULD GIVE YOU ENOUGH ROOM.


ROOM?
ROOM FOR WHAT?


YOUR LANDING.


BUT, I DON'T NEED--
WHAT?!

WHAT HAPPENED?

YOU LANDED WITH A GOOD 100 METERS TO SPARE.

AS YOU MAN HAVE NOTICED BY NOW, I *NEGLECTED* TO INFORM YOU THAT DYNAMO CITY IS AN *OMNI-ENERGY ABSORBING COMPLEX.*

ENERGY IS DYNAMO CITY'S SOLE *COMMODITY* AND BACKS ALL *CURRENCY.*

ALL FORMS OF *DYNAMISM*, BE THEY SOLAR, CHEMICAL, ELECTRICAL, IONIZED, COSMIC, OR WHATEVER, ARE COLLECTED AND STORED WITHIN THE *CENTRAL BATTERY*, THE HEART OF DYNAMO CITY.

BY LEGISLATION, ALL *POWER* BELONGS TO THE *MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.*

IN FACT, *PRIVATE POSSESSION* OF ANY ENERGY IS A FELONY.

YOU'RE EXTREMELY LUCKY THAT THE COMPUTER SCANS *IDENTIFIED* AND *CONFISCATED* YOUR PERSONAL *ENERGIES* BEFORE YOU ENTERED THE CITY.

YOU'VE STOLEN MY COSMIC POWERS?

CONFISCATED. IT APPEARS YOUR MIGHT COMES FROM THE STARS.

ALL STELLAR ENERGIES ARE GATHERED BEFORE THEY EVER REACH DYNAMO CITY'S INTERIOR.

DOCTOR DOOM ONCE USURPED MY POWER, AN INDIGNITY I *SWORE* I'D NEVER ALLOW AGAIN.

THE SILVER SURFER MUST BE PART OF THE HEAVENS.

HE MUST SOAR.

GUARDS!

HE MUST BE FREE!!

HALT! THIS IS NOT AN EXIT!

YOU ARE SCHEDULED TO APPEAR BEFORE *DYNAMO CITY COURT #6.*

FAILURE TO ATTEND IS A *FELONY.*

THE SILVER SURFER DOES NOT *ACKNOWLEDGE* THE VALIDITY OF THIS RULING.

YOU SHALL NOT BIND ME!

NONCOMPLIANCE WITH A LEGAL ORDER IS A *FELONY.*

CONSIDER YOURSELF *UNDER ARREST.*

SUSPECT CONTINUES TO RESIST APPREHENSION.

SUSPECT IS SUBDUED.

TRANSPORT HIM TO COURT #6, JUDGE P-UZD-C PRESIDING.

NO! NO! NO!

NEVER AGAIN WILL I BE CHAINED TO ONE PLACE.

NEVER AGAIN WILL I BE IMPRISONED

I MUST ROAM FREE AS THE COSMIC WINDS.

I MUST... MUST... MUST...

WELCOME TO *DYNAMO CITY COURT #6*. THE INQUIRY INTO THE DEATH OF *THANOS OF TITAN* IS NOW IN SESSION.

I...

I...

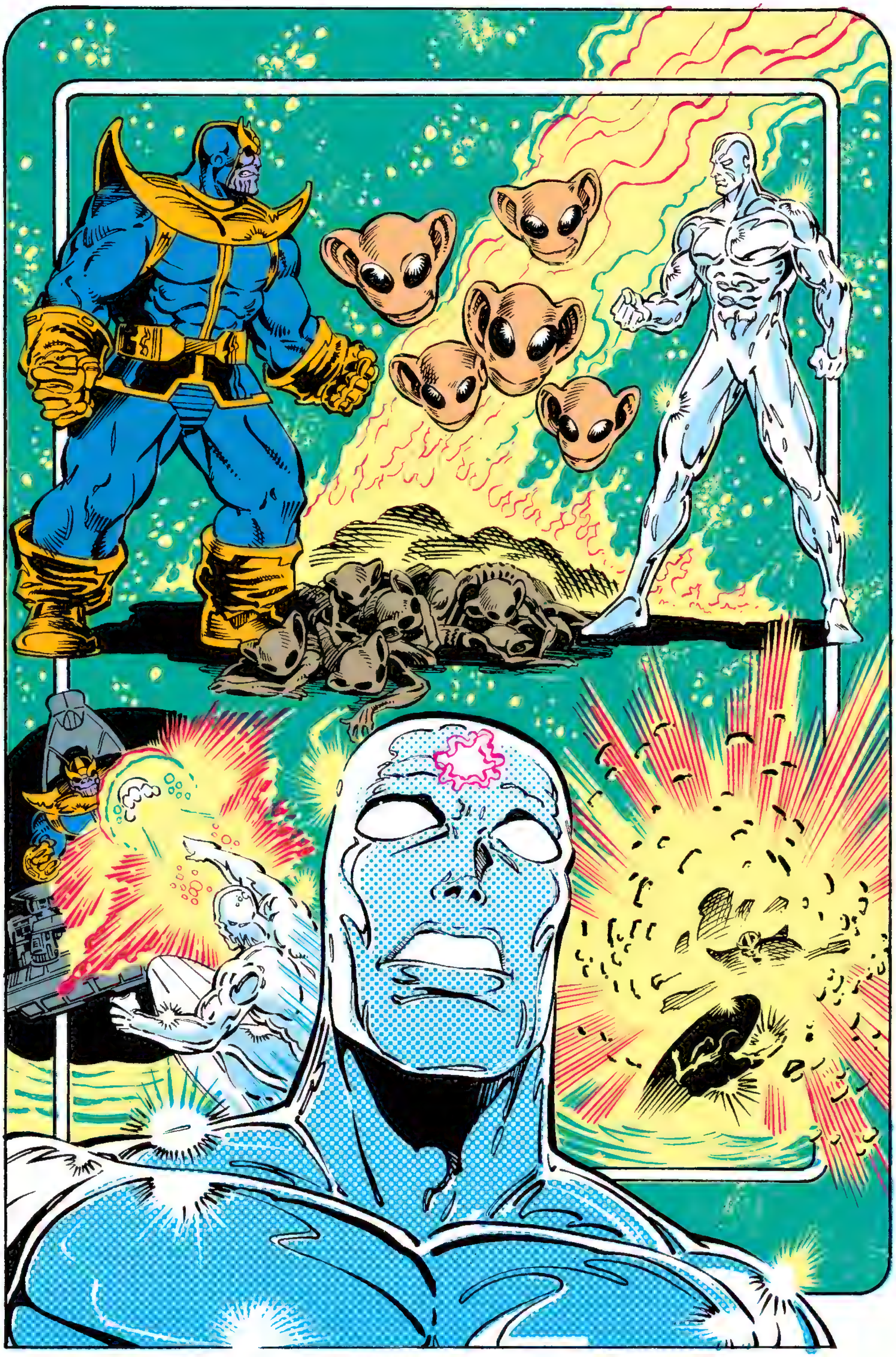
I...

PROCEED WITH THE *TESTIMONY.*

DOCUMENTING WITNESSES'S TESTIMONY.

UGH...

A DOOR IS FORCED OPEN TO EXPOSE THE THOUGHTS HIDDEN BEHIND IT.



THAT... WAS A... A MIND PROBE...

MEMBERS OF THE *JURY*, YOU NOW HAVE ALL THE EVIDENCE IN THIS MATTER.

GO FORTH AND RENDER A *JUST* AND *HONEST* VERDICT.

WE WILL BE PREPARED TO HAND DOWN OUR DECISION IN *FIVE TIME UNITS*.

WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN MYSELF INTO HERE?

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN VIEWING *THANOS'S* WILL WHILE WE WAIT?

YOU ARE *MENTIONED* IN IT.

I AM? THEN LET US SEE IT.

BAILIFF, SCREEN FILE TAPE SCR.-U-Z.

LET IT BE KNOWN THAT THIS IS THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF *THANOS* OF *TITAN*, DULY WITNESSED AND NOTARIZED.

I HEARBY LEAVE ALL MY ON-WORLD *POSSESSIONS* AND *WEALTH* TO THE GRAND CITIZENS OF *DYNAMO CITY*, TO WHOM I OWE SO MUCH.

I HAVE ARRANGED FOR MY *OFF-WORLD LEGACY* TO BE HANDLED UNDER *SEPARATE CONTRACT*, IN NO WAY ATTACHED TO THIS DOCUMENT.

I NOW WISH TO AVAIL MYSELF OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS A *LAST MESSAGE* TO MY ONE-TIME ADVERSARY, THE *SILVER SURFER*.

YOUR VIEWING OF THIS TAPE MEANS I CAN *NO LONGER* BE COUNTED AMONG THE *LIVING*, AND CHANCES ARE *YOU* ARE *RESPONSIBLE* FOR THIS CONDITION.

UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU, I AM NOT ONE TO *GO SILENTLY* INTO THE *NIGHT*. I AM NOT A FORGIVER OF *WRONGS* DONE AGAINST ME.

BUT I AM ALSO ENOUGH OF A *REALIST* TO KNOW I CAN DEPEND ON *NO ONE* AVENGING ME. SO I, MYSELF TOOK *CERTAIN STEPS* BEFORE DEPARTING THIS MORTAL COIL.

IT WAS NO EASY MATTER GAINING *CITIZENSHIP* ON DYNAMO CITY AND SETTING UP *RESIDENCE*. BUT IT WILL *ALL* BE *WORTH IT* IN THE LONG RUN.

AS YOU'LL LEARN, THE INHABITANTS OF THIS *SATELLITE* HAVE GIVEN THE TERM "*BUREAUCRACY*" A NEW AND FRIGHTENING *MEANING*.

I MAY BE *DEAD*, BUT YOU, DEAR SURFER, ARE IN *DYNAMO CITY*. I AM, BY FAR, THE *MORE FORTUNATE* OF THE TWO OF US.

WELCOME TO *BEDLAM*, SURFER. KNOW THAT YOU WILL *NEVER AGAIN* ROAM THE *HEAVENS*. THAT IS MY *LEGACY* TO YOU.

FAREWELL, OR AS *WELL-AS-YOU-CAN* IN DYNAMO CITY.

NO LONGER SOAR THE STARS?

WHAT DID HE MEAN?

I ASSURE YOU, I HAVE NO IDEA.

UNFORTUNATELY, I THINK I DO.

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! WE ARE READY TO ISSUE OUR *VERDICT.*

BACK ON EARTH THEY HAVE AN EXPRESSION: *KANGAROO COURT.*

I BELIEVE THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN TRICKED INTO PARTICIPATING IN.

THANOS MUST HAVE FIGURED THIS COURT WOULD SURELY *FIND AGAINST* ANYONE WHO HAS KILLED ONE OF ITS CITIZENS.

AND WITHOUT MY *POWERS* I AM HELPLESS AGAINST SUCH *INJUSTICE.*

IT IS OUR FINDING THAT *CITIZEN THANOS* WAS INVOLVED IN A CONSPIRACY TO *MURDER* HALF THE POPULATION OF THE MILKY WAY GALAXY, A *CLASS-A FELONY* UNDER GALACTIC LAW.

WE FURTHER FIND THAT HE MET HIS *DEATH* WHILE ENGAGED IN THIS *CRIMINAL ACTIVITY.*

IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT THE *SILVER SURFER* ACCIDENTALLY CAUSED CITIZEN THANOS'S DESTRUCTION WHILE *DEFENDING* HIS FELLOW SENTIENT BEINGS FROM HARM.

WE SEE *NO REASON* TO RECOMMEND THE FILING OF ANY *CHARGES* AGAINST HIM AT THIS TIME.

COURT DISMISSED!

DOES THAT MEAN I'M FREE TO GO?

OF COURSE. THE BOARD RULED THANOS'S DEATH TO BE AN *ACCIDENT.*

THIS IS NOT AT ALL WHAT I EXPECTED.

IT SEEMS THIS IS *ONE TRAP* THANOS PREPARED THAT *FAILED* TO SNAP SHUT.

MY GUESS IS THAT THE TITAN EXPECTED A *CORRUPT DYNAMO CITY JUDICIAL SYSTEM* TO DESTROY ME.

APPARENTLY ITS EITHER NOT AS *CHAUVINISTIC* AS THANOS THOUGHT, OR I JUST LUCKED UPON AN UNUSUALLY *HONEST JURY.*

IT'S NOT LIKE THANOS TO BE SO *CARELESS.*

STILL IT'S BEST I *DEPART* THIS CITY WITH ALL DUE HASTE.

GOOD BYE, SURFER.

HALT! WHERE GO YOU?

YOUR COURTS HAVE FOUND ME *INNOCENT* OF ANY CRIMES.

I RETURN TO THE *STARS.*

NOT UNTIL YOU PAY YOUR *EXIT TAX.*

EXIT TAX?

HOW MUCH IS THIS TAX?

50 CREDITS.

UNTIL YOU CAN PRODUCE *50 CREDITS*, YOU *CANNOT* BE ALLOWED TO *EXIT* DYNAMO CITY.

BUT I AM *NOT* A *CITIZEN* OF THIS SATELLITE.

I HAVE *NO CREDITS* OR OTHER *CURRENCY.*

THAT IS OF NO CONCERN TO ME.

ROBOT, CAN'T YOU HEAR THE STARS CALLING TO ME?

I HEAR *NOTHING.*

NO, I GUESS I CAN'T EXPECT YOUR *MECHANICAL EARS* TO CATCH THE *SPIRITUAL.*

ONCE BEFORE, SOMEONE SOUGHT TO *KEEP* ME FROM THE *HEAVENS.*

I EVENTUALLY ESCAPED THAT *UNJUST IMPRISONMENT.* MY JAILERS NAME WAS *GALACTUS.*

IF MIGHTY GALACTUS COULDN'T HOLD ME...

...YOU *MOST CERTAINLY WILL NOT!*

CEASE AND DESIST!

THIS IS A LEGAL ORDER!

WARNING: FURTHER RESISTANCE RISKS AGGRESSIVE POLICE RESPONSE.

I CARE NOT!

I WILL BE FREE!!

YOU WILL BE DEAD IF YOU TAKE ANOTHER STEP IN THIS DIRECTION.

I'D LISTEN TO THAT ADVICE, SURFER.

THOSE ARE DISINTEGRATORS THE SENTRIES ARE POINTING AT YOU.

I WILL NOT BE IMPRISONED.

THEN EARN THE MONEY NEEDED TO BUY YOUR FREEDOM.

EARN?

WORK FOR THE CREDITS YOU NEED.

WORK?

HOW DO I FIND WORK HERE IN DYNAMO CITY?

SURFER, I'M A DEPUTY PROCESS SERVER DROID, NOT AN INFORMATION BOOTH. HOW WOULD I KNOW?

FIGURE IT OUT YOURSELF.

GUESS I'LL HAVE TO.

TRAPPED, POWERLESS AND UNEMPLOYED.

WHAT NEXT?

Next: JOB HUNTING

No. 9

OVERSTREET'S Price Update

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- Regional Market Reports
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BOOK ONE

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THE THANOS QUEST™

PART 1
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JIM STARLIN
writer

RON LIM
penciler

JOHN BEATTY
inker

TOM VINCENT
colorist

KEN BRUZENAK
letterer

CRAIG ANDERSON
editor

RENEÉ WITTERSTAETTER
assistant editor

TOM DeFALCO
editor in chief

JIM STARLIN
cover

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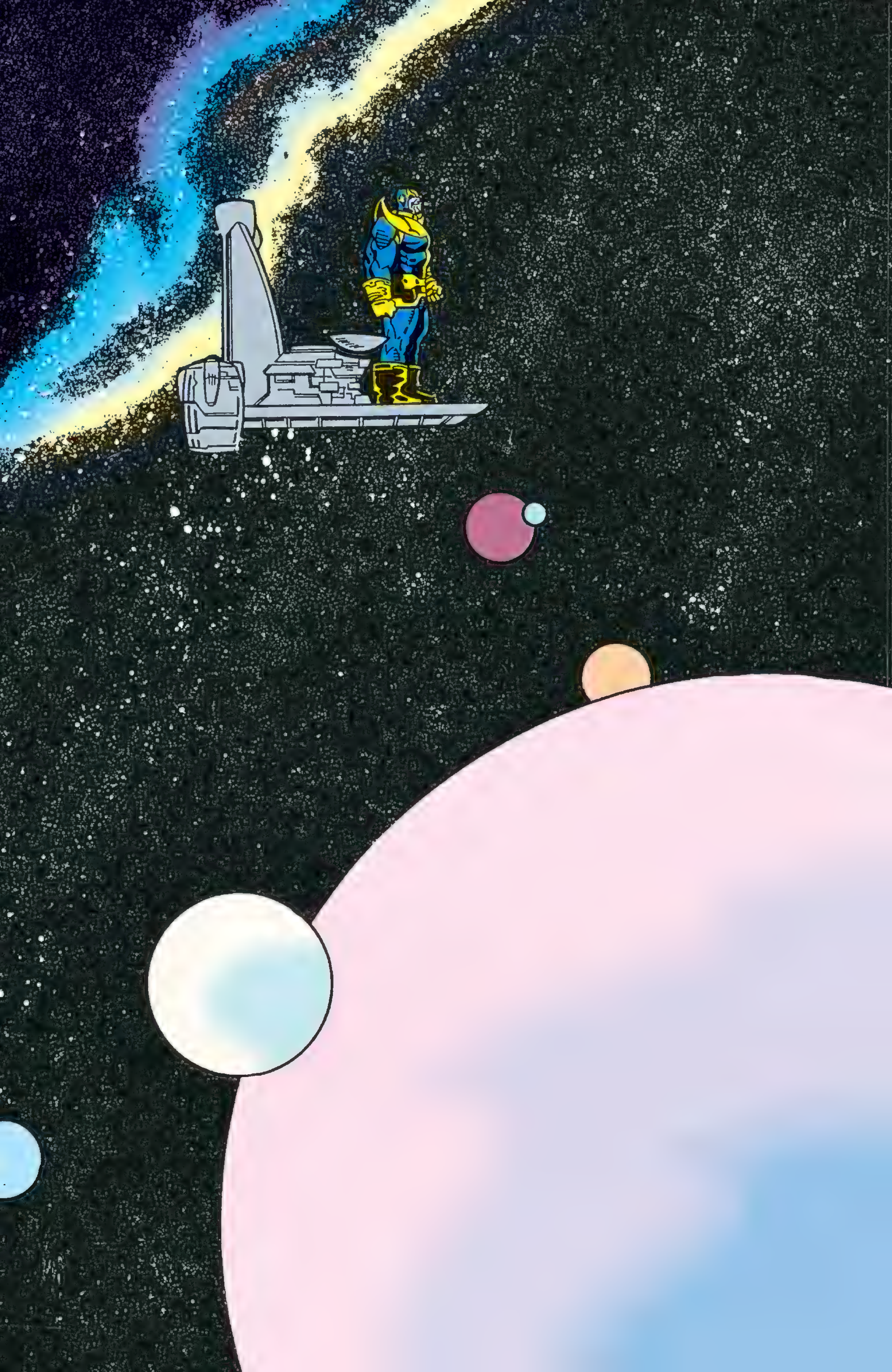

Conscious thought can take one only so far.

There are times the subconscious must be keyed into something greater than itself.

Something like the Infinity Well.

Within its cosmic vortex lies universal knowledge unimaginable.

Within that realm thought encounters no barriers.

Only then are all things possible.

THANOS, *MISTRESS DEATH* WISHES TO KNOW WHY YOU ARE NOT LABORING AT THE *TASK* ASSIGNED YOU.

HALF THE *POPULATION* OF YOUR UNIVERSE AWAITS DEATH'S *GENTLE TOUCH*.

WHY ARE YOU NOT OUT BRINGING THIS *BOON* TO THEM?

BECAUSE I GAZE INTO THE *DEPTHS* OF *WISDOM*.

SUCH KNOWLEDGE IS REQUIRED TO *SERVE* DEATH *PROPERLY*.

ONE ONLY REALIZES SUCH TRUTH WHEN HE HAS BEEN *BEYOND* THE *VEIL* AND *RETURNED*.

I WOULDN'T KNOW; I AM *STILL* DEAD.

NEED I REMIND MY MISTRESS THAT, EVEN IN *MY FIRST INCARNATION*, I SERVED HER *LOYALLY*?

NO OTHER HAS EVER, EVER BEEN SO *FAITHFUL*.

MISTRESS DEATH WISHES TO KNOW *HOW* THIS NEWLY ACQUIRED *KNOWLEDGE* WILL FURTHER HER *DESIRES*.

OR IS THIS ALL MERELY SOME *DEVILTRY* PROUD THANOS COOKS UP FOR HIS OWN *AMUSEMENT*?

MY LOVE FOR DEATH DRIVES ME TO SHOULDER THE AWESOME TASK SHE HAS SET BEFORE ME.

I TACKLE IT WITH UNBRIDLED ENTHUSIASM.

BUT IT IS A MISSION ENDANGERED BY POSSIBLE OUTSIDE INTERFERENCES...

... AND ONE THAT WILL TAKE CENTURIES TO ACCOMPLISH WITH THE POWER I HAVE AT HAND.

BUT MY STUDIES HAVE REVEALED A WAY TO EXPEDITE THIS ASSIGNMENT.

TO DO SO I MUST AUGMENT MY PERSONAL POWERS AT LEAST TENFOLD.

BUT HAS NOT DEATH ALREADY GREATLY ENHANCED YOUR MIGHT?

ARE HER GIFTS NOT ENOUGH FOR YOU?

MOST DEFINITELY.

BUT WHAT I SEEK NOW IS A METHOD TO REFINE AND INCREASE THOSE TALENTS IN ORDER TO SERVE DEATH ALL THE BETTER.

CLARIFICATION, PLEASE.

I WISH TO SEARCH OUT SIX OBJECTS THROUGH WHICH TO FOCUS MY AWESOME MIGHT.

SIX OBJECTS?

THE SIX SOUL GEMS!

DID YOU NOT ONCE USE THESE *JEWELS* IN AN ATTEMPT TO *DESTROY* ALL THE *STARS* WITHIN YOUR GALAXY?

YES, A GOAL I *FAILED* TO REALIZE.

BUT AT THAT TIME I DID NOT PERCEIVE THE *TRUE NATURE* OF THESE GEMS.

I UTILIZED THEM AS A *HAMMER*, WHEN, IN REALITY, THEY ARE A *SURGEON'S SCALPEL.*

FORTUNATELY, MY TIME AT THE *INFINITY WELL* HAS OPENED MY EYES TO THEIR *HIDDEN DESIGN.*

WITH THEM IN HAND, *NO TASK* DEATH COULD ASSIGN ME WOULD BE *TOO GREAT.*

FORTUNATELY, THOSE WHO *CURRENTLY POSSESS* THE SOUL GEMS HAVE NO NOTION OF THE *TRUE NATURE* OF THEIR TREASURES.

THEY USE THEM AS *CRUDE WEAPONS* OR, EVEN WORSE, AS *PERSONAL TALISMEN.*

YOU ARE FOREVER THE *PLOTTER* AND *SCHEMER*, AREN'T YOU, DEAR THANOS?

ALL AND ALWAYS FOR *YOUR BENEFIT*, MISTRESS DEATH.

SO, DO I HAVE YOUR *PERMISSION* TO SEEK OUT A POSSIBLY SPEEDIER *SOLUTION* TO THE PROBLEM SET ME?

MIGHT I ADD THAT THE *FIRST GEM* I WISH TO RETRIEVE IS IN THE *POSSESSION* OF THE CREATURE KNOWN AS THE *IN-BETWEENER.*

YOU WILL REMEMBER THE SCOUNDREL THAT RECENTLY FORCED US INTO ACTIONS AGAINST OUR WILL.

AN AFFRONTERY NOT EASILY FORGIVEN.

MISTRESS DEATH WOULD ENJOY SEEING THE IN-BETWEENER SUFFER ANY LOSS YOU MIGHT ENGINEER.

PERMISSION GRANTED!

My luck holds. My quest begins.

Six gems of unimaginable power. Once they are in Thanos's grasp...

...let the heavens tremble.

Mystic conjurings have revealed that the In-Betweener has recently become the prisoner of Lord Chaos and Master Order.

He apparently transgressed boundaries they set for him.

Journeying there is not something I would have dared in my past incarnation.

But that has all changed.

His prison could only be within the Nexus of Reality, the point where chaos and order meet and meld.

Now I am an agent of Death and her paramour. Now I fear nothing...

...save failure.

My trek takes me through strange myriad dimensions.

Inconceivable realities.

Different planes of existence exert different influences.

A spiritually and physically taxing experience.

For a lesser being this would be a fatal endeavor.

But Thanos endures as always.

Reality, like all outside influences...

...has a minimal effect on my being.

I always hold true to my self.

For I am Thanos...

...a unique being in any reality.

My journey ends dramatically.

How else would one enter...

...the NEXUS of REALITY.

From here springs all that is.

It is the fulcrum of existence.

It is the meeting place of dichotomies.

It is the shared realm of chaos and order.

Of course the In-Betweener's prison rests between the polarities of actuality.

And there are guards.

They are creatures of mixed reality, the perfect sentries.

They sense me immediately.

Their intent is obvious.

But they were designed and created to bar the way of less formidable intruders than I.

GREETINGS, IN-BETWEENER.

YOU ARE THE DEMI-GOD THANOS, ARE YOU NOT?

I THOUGHT YOU DEAD.

NO LONGER.

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO SUCH INHOSPITABLE SURROUNDINGS?

YOU DO.

I'VE COME TO FREE YOU FROM YOUR UNJUST INCARCERATION.

YOUR INTENTION I APPLAUD, TITAN, BUT YOUR MOTIVES I QUESTION.

GREAT THANOS IS NOT KNOWN FOR HIS GENEROSITY.

BUT HIS PRAGMATISM IS LEGENDARY.

I AM OPEN TO LISTENING TO FURTHER EXPLANATION.

I AM CURRENTLY A *THRALL* OF *MISTRESS DEATH*, A POSITION I *CHAFE* IN.

BUT ONE DOES NOT *LEAVE* HER SERVICE *EASILY*.

NOT WITHOUT FIRST FINDING A *NEW PROTECTOR*?

EXACTLY.

SOMEONE CAPABLE OF STAYING DEATH'S *VENGEFUL HAND*.

AND YOU FIGURED *FREEING* ME WOULD EARN YOU MY *UNDYING GRATITUDE*?

DEFINITELY.

WITH THE EMPHASIS ON THE *UNDYING* PART OF GRATITUDE.

DOES THIS *FOOL* ACTUALLY THINK I'VE NEED FOR A *SLAVE* LIKE HIMSELF?

RESCUE IS MY ONLY WANT.

PERHAPS I'D BEST PLAY *ALONG* WITH THIS DOLT.

I'LL NEVER GAIN *FREEDOM* ON MY OWN.

THIS THANOS'S MIGHT IS *NOTHING* COMPARED TO MY *OWN*.

ONCE HE SERVES ME, I SHALL *DEAL* WITH HIM *ACCORDINGLY*.

BUT TELL ME, THANOS, DO YOU HAVE THE *POWER* TO TEAR ASUNDER MY *PRISON*?

NO.

BUT TOGETHER, THE TWO OF US *MIGHT* BE ABLE TO *FREE* YOU.

YOU EMPLOY *YOUR MAGICS* FROM WITHIN...

...WHILE I PIT *MY MIGHT* AGAINST THE SPHERE'S EXTERIOR.

IT SEEMS AS SOUND A PLAN AS ANY.

LET US BEGIN.

Even through the prison wall I can sense the awesome forces set loose within that globe.

I do my best to match them.

AT LONG LAST, I AM FREE!

IN TRUTH, I HAD GIVEN UP ALL HOPE.

WITHIN THANOS'S BREAST HOPE ALWAYS SPRINGS ETERNAL.

YES, THANOS... MY SAVIOR...

HOW CAN I *PROPERLY EXPRESS* MY *GRATITUDE* FOR YOUR VALIANT EFFORTS?

HOW CAN I *THANK* ONE WHO HAS *BETRAYED* DEATH IN ORDER TO *SAVE* ME?

MOREOVER, HOW COULD I EVER *TRUST* SUCH A *TRAITOR*?

WHAT?

CONCEITED FOOL!

DID YOU REALLY THINK I WOULD ABANDON *SWEET DEATH* TO SERVE ONE SUCH AS *YOU*?

IN TRUTH, ALL I CAME FOR WAS *THIS*.

HOW?

THIS IS THE *NEXUS* OF *REALITY*, AN EXISTENCE WHERE CHAOS AND ORDER *BOND*.

WITHIN THIS PLANE, THERE ARE *NO DICHOTOMIES* YOUR UNIQUE POWERS *NEED* IN ORDER TO *FUNCTION*.

BUT THEY WORKED WITHIN THE SPHERE...

BECAUSE THE LORDS CHAOS AND ORDER ARE *GENTLE WARDENS*.

THEY ALLOWED YOU THAT *LUXURY* TO MAKE YOUR IMPRISONMENT *MORE TOLERABLE*.

BUT I DOUBT THEY'LL *INDULGE* YOU SO EVER AGAIN.

YOU SEE, THAT'S WHY THEY IMPRISONED YOU *WITHIN* THE *PRISON* OF THIS *EXISTENCE*.

EVEN THEY *WEREN'T CERTAIN* YOU COULDN'T *ESCAPE* THEIR MYSTIC CAGE.

OF COURSE, THEY HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING THAT *I'D* COME TO YOUR AID...AND THAT THEY WOULD *NOT* BE ABLE TO *SENSE* MY PRESENCE.

YOU SEE, I AM ONE OF THOSE *ODD BEINGS* WHO IS *OUTSIDE* DESTINY'S USUAL *REALM* OF *INFLUENCE*.

CHAOS AND *ORDER* HAVE *NO POWER* OVER ME, AND SO *CANNOT DETECT* MY COMINGS AND GOINGS.

UNFORTUNATELY FOR *YOU*, THEY HAVE BEEN ALERTED TO *YOUR ESCAPE* AND ARE ON THEIR WAY HERE.

SO I MUST BE GOING.

MY GUESS IS THAT THEY'LL BE *QUITE UPSET* WITH YOU.

"YOUR *NEXT PRISON* WILL PROBABLY BE NOWHERE NEAR AS *COMFORTABLE*."

"MY APOLOGIES."

LORD CHAOS!

MASTER ORDER!

THIS IS NOT MY FAULT...

THIS IS ALL THANOS OF TITAN'S WORK!

NOT ME!

YOU MUST LISTEN!

AAAIIIEEEEEE

The first of six.

This was once the property of my one-time ally, Adam Warlock, and the only jewel truly deserving of the name Soul Gem.

With it the sentient spirit can be touched and manipulated to serve the gem bearer's will.

Never before has there been such an almighty and unique weapon.

DO YOU TRULY *CHAFE* WITHIN DEATH'S SERVICE?

WHAT?!

DEATH IS WAITING FOR AN *ANSWER.*

SURELY MY MISTRESS RECOGNIZES A *PLOY* WHEN SHE SEES ONE. *HOW* CAN SHE ASK SUCH A QUESTION OF *ME*?

HOW *MANY* TIMES MUST I PLEDGE AND PROVE MY *LOVE* AND *LOYALTY* TO YOU?

I SWEAR TO YOU, MY LADY, MY *DEVOTION* AND *SOUL* ARE YOURS TO COMMAND.

AND DESPITE ALL THE *EVIL* I HAVE DONE IN MY *PAST*...

...YOU KNOW THAT WHEN MY *WORD* IS GIVEN IT IS ALWAYS *HONORED*.

MISTRESS DEATH ACCEPTS THIS *TESTAMENT* AND WISHES YOU *GOOD FORTUNE* ON YOUR QUEST.

SO SHE *IS* KEEPING AN *EYE* ON ME...

...JUST AS I *EXPECTED*.

WHICH MEANS I MUST BE *DOUBLY CAREFUL*.

IF SHE SHOULD STUMBLE ONTO MY *TRUE PLAN* BEFORE I AM READY TO REVEAL IT...

It is best not to even consider the dire ramifications of such a premature disclosure.

The planet Tamarata.

A strategic world in the defense plans of five different warring federations.

It is a planet constantly under siege, forever being conquered and reconquered.

It is the perfect home for the Elder who calls himself CHAMPION.

Where else can this immortal regularly test his highly vaunted fighting skills; daily facing one federation after the other, always letting them think he works for the enemy.

To a creature who lives for combat, this world is paradise.

On this world, Champion has never tasted defeat.

Nor will he ever against such fœs as long as he wears that gem on his forehead.

For it is a conduit to a seemingly limitless source of unfocused energy.

The gem's wearer can tap into this reservoir to augment any force it wishes to utilize.

Champion has managed to do this on a subconscious level.

He has no idea of the gem's worth, believes its power dormant and only wears it as a good luck charm.

Champion credits his successes on his own battle prowess.

It shall prove his undoing.

I reprogram my teleportation system for remote external function.

The power of the gem shall be mine.

CHAMPION!

WHEN YOU FINISH *PLAYING AROUND* WITH THOSE CHILDREN, I WOULD HAVE *WORDS* WITH YOU.

WHO MIGHT YOU BE AND WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I AM CALLED THANOS, AND I'VE COME TO TAKE THIS PLANET AWAY FROM YOU.

WHAT NEEDS HAVE YOU OF THIS WORLD?

NONE. BATTLE WITH A WORTHY OPPONENT IS WHAT I REALLY CRAVE.

WILL I FIND IT HERE?

YES, BUT YOU WILL ALSO FIND DEFEAT ON THIS PLANET.

FOR I AM CHAMPION!

I AM INVINCIBLE!

YOU ALSO TELEGRAPH YOUR BLOWS A LIGHT YEAR AHEAD OF THEIR COMING.

WHAT?

NEVER MIND.

YOU DARE MOCK CHAMPION?

FOR THAT, YOU SHALL PAY!

I DOUBT IT.

I MUST SAY, CHAMPION--

--YOU ARE TURNING OUT TO BE A *GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT* TO ME.

I REALLY EXPECTED MORE OF A *CHALLENGE* FROM YOU.

CAN YOU *HEAR* ME UNDERNEATH ALL THAT RUBBLE...?

YES!

YOU ARE DEFINITELY A *TRICKY ONE*, THANOS.

FROM THIS POINT ON, CHAMPION WILL TAKE IT *SLOW* AND *EASY* WITH YOU.

YOU OBVIOUSLY *MISUNDERSTAND* THE *POINT* OF THIS ENCOUNTER, CHAMPION.

THERE IS *NOT* GOING TO BE ANYTHING *EASY* ABOUT IT!

NOW DO YOU SEE WHAT I MEAN?

IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN FANCY ENERGY BEAMS TO BEAT CHAMPION!

PERHAPS.

THEN AGAIN, PERHAPS NOT.

THERE ARE NO PERHAPS ABOUT IT.

ONCE CHAMPION SETS HIS MIND TO SOMETHING, HE IS UNSTOPPABLE!

NO FORCE IN THE UNIVERSE CAN CURB MY RIGHTEOUS ANGER!

NO ENEMY CAN STAND AGAINST MY MIGHT!

NO POWER IS CAPABLE OF WITHSTANDING A BLOW FROM MY IRON FISTS!

I AM CHAMPION, AND I...

...TALK TOO MUCH!

AND THINK TOO LITTLE.

SUCH TRICKS AND TAUNTS WILL AVAIL YOU NAUGHT IN A CONTEST WITH CHAMPION!

IT IS POWER AND SKILL THAT COUNTS!

AS YOU ARE ABOUT TO LEARN, TO YOUR SORROW!

SHIELDS UP.

KA-RUUM-PH!

SO YOUR ARSENAL OF TOYS INCLUDES AN *INVISIBLE FORCE FIELD*, DOES IT?

WELL, CHAMPION HAS ENCOUNTERED SUCH *CHEAP TRICKS* IN THE PAST!

AND HE HAS ALWAYS *OVERCOME* THEM.

I can well believe that.

The force he concentrates on my shields is nearly inconceivable.

I already begin to feel them buckle.

His strength seems to grow in direct proportion to his anger.

In many ways I assume this is what it would be like battling the Terran behemoth, the Hulk.

A conflict I've sought to avoid over the years.

The force field is crumbling.

The enraged monster will be on me in a moment.

But then the Elder dœs the unexpected.

He backs off when victory is only a few blows away.

DAMNATION.

YOU ARE NO WARRIOR, TITAN!

A TRUE WARRIOR DOES NOT HIDE BEHIND SCIENTIFIC HARDWARE!

BUT IT WON'T WIN THE DAY FOR YOU!

I AM CHAMPION, THE MOST POWERFUL FIGHTER IN THE UNIVERSE!

NOTHING CAN STOP ME! NOTHING!

And then, as if programmed, Champion makes the move I have been waiting for.

These muscle-bound types are all so predictable.

They pump themselves into a righteous steroid frenzy, thinking power is the answer to all problems.

They actually believe their granite fists can gain for them what their puny intellects cannot.

It is much like dealing with a child.

A half ton child, but a child nonetheless.

But it will benefit him little.

In the end, the mind always proves to be the most powerful muscle.

HUH?

And this infantile berserker is backed by almost unlimited might.

TELEPORTER AWAY.

He hits the Tamarata with the power of an atomic arsenal.

And the planet becomes the only victim of Champion's anger.

The seismic disruption sets off a long dormant volcanic chain.

The reaction continues along the length of the continental shelf.

This in turn sets off new eruptions which trigger ever more devastating events.

Of course Champion had no idea that he possessed such power.

But I did.

And I knew his unchecked anger could be manipulated to use his own strength against him.

I WON!

NO ONE CAN STAND AGAINST CHAMPION'S MIGHT!

I'VE WON IT ALL!

HAVE YOU NOW?

IT LOOKS TO ME THAT ALL YOU'VE MANAGED TO DO IS DESTROY *TAMARATA*, THE PRIZE WE FOUGHT FOR, AND *STRAND* YOURSELF IN *OUTER SPACE*.

I'LL BATTLE YOU FOR YOUR VESSEL!

WHY SHOULD I AGREE TO SUCH A CONTEST?

FOR THE HONOR OF COMBAT!

RUBBISH. I DON'T FEEL LIKE FIGHTING.

THEN I SHALL SMASH YOUR CRAFT.

NOT WHILE I HAVE A FORCE FIELD TO PROTECT IT.

YOU BEGIN TO BORE ME, CHAMPION. FAREWELL.

WAIT!

YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME LIKE THIS!

WHY NOT? YOU ARE IMMORTAL. FLOATING IN SPACE WILL NOT KILL YOU.

BUT I IMAGINE THE EXPERIENCE WILL GET RATHER OLD AFTER A CENTURY OR TWO.

PLEASE! I BEG YOU! TRANSPORT ME TO ANOTHER PLANET!

I WILL, FOR A PRICE.

WHAT PRICE?

YOUR SOUL GEM.

MY GEM?

FORGET IT.

SOONER OR LATER SOMEONE WILL COME ALONG AND FIND ME.

AND THEY'LL PROBABLY REMEMBER WHAT AN EGOTISTICAL MONSTER YOU WERE AND LEAVE YOU.

HERE! TAKE IT!

THING NEVER FUNCTIONED ANYWAY.

THANK YOU.

YOU WILL STILL TAKE ME TO ANOTHER WORLD EVEN THOUGH IT DOESN'T WORK?

THANOS ALWAYS HONORS AN AGREEMENT.

MY TRACTOR BEAM WILL TOW YOU TO THE NEAREST PLANET.

I EXPECT THIS WORLD WILL BE SUITABLE?

YES, I KNOW THIS PLACE. IT IS RULED BY WEAKLINGS.

I SHOULD HAVE NO TROUBLE...

HEY!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

HONORING OUR *AGREEMENT* AND *RELEASING* YOU FROM THE TRACTOR BEAM.

I SAID I WOULD *TRANSPORT* YOU TO *ANOTHER PLANET*, AND I HAVE.

OUR AGREEMENT *NEVER STIPULATED* TO ANYTHING ABOUT...

...A SOFT *LANDING*.

I WONDER IF CHAMPION WILL *SURVIVE* THE *FALL*.

HE IS *IMMORTAL*.

BUT THERE ARE *LIMITS* TO EVEN IMMORTALITY.

PERHAPS I *SHOULD* HAVE TREATED HIM *BETTER*.

AFTER ALL, HE DID PROVIDE ME WITH A GREAT DEAL OF *AMUSEMENT* AND THE SECOND *SOUL GEM*.

BUT THEN AGAIN, SEEING AS HOW ONLY THE *FIRST JEWEL* HAS CONTROL OVER THE SOUL, A BETTER NAME FOR THEM MIGHT BE THE *INFINITY GEMS*.

THE *LATTER JEWEL* WILL COME IN VERY *HANDY* DURING MY NEXT ENCOUNTER.

FOR THE *THIRD GEM* I SEEK IS CURRENTLY IN THE POSSESSION OF...

AND NOW *TWO* OF THEM ARE MINE.

THE *SOUL GEM* AND THE *GEM OF POWER*.

The GARDENER.

Once his only concern was creating floral beauty. This desire led him to track down an Infinity Gem to use as a tool for this end.

But it also put him in contact with the Elders and awakened a hunger for power within him.

Perhaps this drive has been quieted. Because of late he has broken off his association with the Elders and returned to merely tending his garden.

AND A TRULY MARVELOUS GARDEN IT IS.

STRANGE WORDS COMING FROM THANOS OF TITAN.

LET ME ~~ASS~~URE YOU, GARDENER, THAT DESPITE MY LOVE FOR DEATH, I CAN STILL APPRECIATE BEAUTY.

AND *RESPECT* THOSE WHO CAN CREATE IT.

WOULD YOU CARE TO *JOIN* ME ON MY *ROUNDS*, TITAN?

IT WOULD BE A *PLEASURE*.

I'VE WONDERED WHY YOU NO LONGER RUN WITH THE *ELDERS*, GARDENER.

I'VE *NO* *NEED* TO.

THEIR *GOAL* WAS ALWAYS THE *ACQUISITION* OF *POWER* AND YET *MORE* POWER.

ALL I EVER TRULY CRAVED WAS THE *PEACE* OF MY *GARDEN*.

THEN *WHY* DID YOU EVER TAKE UP WITH THAT CROWD IN THE FIRST PLACE?

WE SHARED ONE *COMMON* *OBJECTIVE*.

THE *SOUL* *GEMS*.

I POSSESSED ONE YEARS AGO AND MY GARDEN NEVER *BLOOMED* SO *MAGNIFICENTLY*.

I WAS DETERMINED TO *REGAIN* THIS *PRIZE*, EVEN IF IT MEANT DEALING WITH THE LIKES OF THE ELDERS.

AND NOW THAT I HAVE, MY GARDEN MUST SURELY BE THE *MOST BEAUTIFUL* PLACE IN THE *ENTIRE* UNIVERSE.

A SENTIMENT I CANNOT ARGUE WITH.

SHALL WE SIT AND ENJOY THE GREEN FOR AWHILE?

AN EXCELLENT IDEA.

OF COURSE, YOU KNOW *WHY* I AM HERE.

FOR MY *SOUL GEM.*

I NEED IT TO FURTHER MY *OWN DREAMS.*

AND THESE DREAMS ARE *MORE IMPORTANT* THAN MY GARDEN?

YES, MY GOAL MUST OVERRIDE ALL OTHERS.

MY LOVE FOR DEATH CANNOT BE DENIED.

YOU REALIZE I CANNOT GIVE UP THE GEM WITHOUT A FIGHT.

I WISH YOU'D RECONSIDER THAT DECISION.

SURELY YOU MUST SENSE THAT YOUR POWER IS NOTHING WHEN COMPARED TO MINE.

YES, AND I KNOW YOU ALREADY POSSESS TWO OTHER SOUL GEMS, WHICH MAKES YOU A TRULY UNBEATABLE FOE.

BUT I, TOO, MUST BE TRUE TO MY OWN DESIRES AND NEEDS.

I HAVE NO WISH TO HARM YOU, GARDENER.

NOR I YOU, BUT OUR DREAMS ARE AT ODDS.

SUCH A PITY...

POOR GARDENER, YOU HAVE *NO IDEA* WHAT RESTS ON YOUR BROW.

THE *INFINITY GEMS* COME FROM BEFORE ALL *RECORDED TIME.*

I BELIEVE THEY MIGHT EVEN BE THE *CORNER-STONES* OF ALL *REALITY.*

WITH THEM, *ALL FACETS* OF ACTUALITY CAN BE *CONTROLLED.*

WARLOCK'S GEM IS THE *KEY* TO THE *SOULS* OF ALL SENTIENT BEINGS.

CHAMPION'S JEWEL BACKS ALL THE OTHER GEMS WITH *INFINITE POWER.*

IT IS THE *FOUNDATION* OF THE *GALACTIC DYNASTY* I ENVISION.

AND *YOUR GEM* WILL GIVE ME THE GIFT OF *TIME.*

YOU DIDN'T *CONSCIOUSLY REALIZE* THAT WAS YOUR JEWEL'S SECRET PROPERTY.

WITH IT, THE *STREAMS* OF *TIME* CAN BE RECONSTRUCTED AS EASILY AS A CHILD BUILDS A *SANDCASTLE*.

ONLY YOUR *SUBCONSCIOUS* BARELY PERCEIVED THE *GEM'S POTENTIAL*.

THAT WAS *HOW* YOU CREATED YOUR *WONDROUS GARDEN*.

YOUR PLANTS GREW SO RAPIDLY BECAUSE YOU *RACED* THEM THROUGH THEIR *GROWTH CYCLES*.

AND THEY BLOOMED ETERNALLY BECAUSE YOU *FROZE* THE MOMENT THEY REACHED THE *ZENITH* OF THEIR *BEAUTY*.

BOTANICAL SPLENDOR NEVER BEFORE ACHIEVED.

UNFORTUNATELY, WITHOUT THE *GEM'S AID*, THE GARDEN'S *BEAUTY* WON'T LAST.

FOR THAT I AM *TRULY SORRY*, AND I HOPE...

...THAT YOU WILL *UNDERSTAND* MY REGRET, EVEN THOUGH YOU CAN NO LONGER *HEAR* MY WORDS.

I USED THE GEM OF POWER TO AUGMENT YOUR JEWEL'S PLANT GROWING ABILITIES TO LEVELS YOU NEVER DREAMT OF.

TO LEVELS BEYOND YOUR CONTROL.

I ADMITTEDLY FEEL A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF SHAME IN TURNING YOUR GREATEST GIFT INTO THE INSTRUMENT OF YOUR DESTRUCTION.

YOUR FATE WILL LAY HEAVILY ON MY HEART, THOUGH BY ALL RIGHTS IT SHOULDN'T.

I DID NOT FORCE YOU TO FIGHT ME. I GAVE YOU THE CHANCE TO SURRENDER THE GEM.

YOU FORCED ME INTO DOING WHAT I DID. I HAD TO BE FAITHFUL TO MY NATURE.

FOR, AFTER ALL, I AM THANOS.

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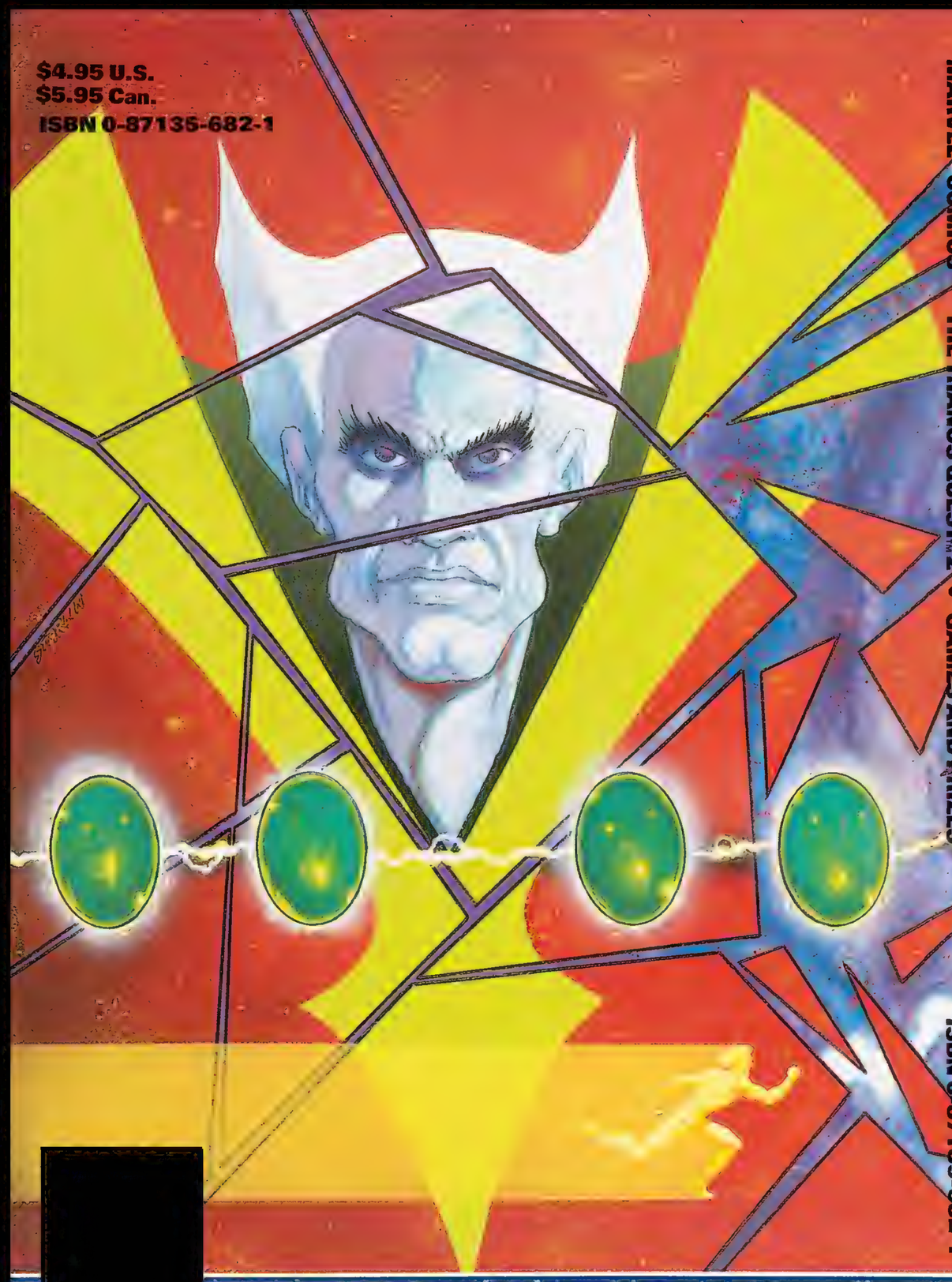

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MARVEL COMICS®

BOOK TWO

THE THANOS QUEST™

Six Soul Gems. They contain the power to control the universe. But can they give Thanos that which he desires most?

GAMES AND PRIZES

JIM STARLIN • RON LIM • JOHN BEATTY • TOM VINCENT

THE TRANOS QUEST™

PART 2
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AND PRIZES

JIM STARLIN
writer

RON LIM
penciler

JOHN BEATTY
inker

TOM VINCENT
colorist

KEN BRUZENAK
letterer

CRAIG ANDERSON
editor

RENEÉ WITTERSTAETTER
assistant editor

TOM DeFALCO
editor in chief

JIM STARLIN
cover

MICHAEL HEISLER
logo

CINDY EMMERT : title page design

He is the COLLECTOR, an Elder.

He is so named because that is exactly what he does. He collects things and people.

That is his mania. If it is rare, the Collector desires it. He has power, knowledge, and skill, but only uses them to gain further beings and objects for his already gigantic collection.

But today his thoughts are not on his trophies. He awaits a sub-space communication.

A call from me.

bleep bleep

YES?

THANOS OF TITAN HERE.

I TAKE IT THAT YOU HAVE BEEN EXPECTING MY CALL?

OF COURSE.

WHICH MEANS YOU HAVE BEEN MONITORING MY ACTIVITIES, CORRECT?

YES, EVER SINCE YOUR ENCOUNTER WITH CHAMPION.

THEN YOU KNOW WHAT I AM AFTER.

YOU WANT MY SOUL GEM.

I PREFER TO CALL THEM INFINITY GEMS.

COLLECTOR, IN THE PAST WE HAVE HAD THE ODD OCCASION OR TWO TO WORK TOGETHER.

BECAUSE OF THIS, I AM INCLINED TO BE GENEROUS WITH YOU.

I FULLY INTEND TO GAIN ALL MY DESIRES, BUT HAVE NO WISH TO CAUSE YOUR DEATH IN THE PROCESS.

THAT SEEMS SOMEWHAT OUT OF CHARACTER FOR YOU; ALMOST HUMANE.

PERHAPS I'M GOING SOFT IN MY TWILIGHT YEARS.

AS I RECALL, YOU HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO BARTER CERTAIN ITEMS FROM YOUR COLLECTION FOR EVEN RARER TIDBITS YOU CRAVE.

THAT IS SO, EVEN THOUGH IT BREAKS MY HEART TO PART WITH ANY OF MY LOVIES.

THEN YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT I WILL SOON COME INTO POSSESSION OF SOMETHING YOU WILL MOST CERTAINLY WISH TO ADD TO YOUR MENAGERIE.

SOMETHING YOU WILL GLADLY TRADE EVEN YOUR INFINITY GEM FOR.

THAT ITEM WOULD HAVE TO BE SOMETHING *TRULY UNIQUE* FOR IT TO TAKE THE PLACE OF MY *SOUL GEM.*

IT IS.

I SHALL BE GETTING BACK TO YOU ON THIS MATTER.

Unless the Collector gets back to me first.

Which will mean he has unlocked the secret of his own Infinity Gem, that he knows how to use its power.

If that be the case, I will have little chance of surviving the Collector's response to my offer.

Perhaps this was a foolish move on my part, senseless bravado. But it was also the surest way of getting to the truth.

Some prizes demand taking great risks. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

So I wait.

Nothing.

Just as I expected.

Despite his great power, metaphysics have never been the Collector's strong suit.

All goes according to plan, which means my next step is..

...using my craft's sensors to trace the unique vibratory pattern of the Elder known as the RUNNER.

Trace complete. Coordinates set into the guidance system.

Institute teleportation procedures.

My fourth Infinity Gem is almost within my grasp.

Or is it?

This is definitely the sector of space in which my instruments indicate the Runner should be found.

So where is he?

HAD ENOUGH, TITAN?

I BELIEVE I HAVE, RUNNER.

I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE THAT QUICK ON YOUR FEET.

YEAH, SOMETIMES I AMAZE EVEN MYSELF.

AND YOU KNOW WHY I'M SO FAST?

IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF THIS BEAUTY RIGHT HERE.

THE GRAND MASTER WARNED ME YOU'D BE COMING FOR IT.

YES, I WAS ALWAYS *FAST*, BUT I NEVER REALLY KNEW WHAT *SPEED* WAS UNTIL I GOT THIS LITTLE *PURPLE DARLING.*

NOW I SOMETIMES *ARRIVE* AT WHERE I'M GOING *BEFORE* I EVEN *REALIZE* I'VE STARTED RUNNING.

NOW THAT'S *FAST!*

I'M QUICKER THAN *THOUGHT.*

FASTER THAN LIGHT.

I'M THE *SPEEDIEST* DAMN THING IN THE *WHOLE UNIVERSE.*

ARE YOU NOW?

SHALL WE *TEST* THAT THEORY?

THAT

WAS

A

BIG

MISTAKE,

TITAN.

The Elder disappears into the depths of the ether in the blink of an eye.

Never have I witnessed such speed and maneuverability.

And what remains of my instrumentation shows that his speed has at least doubled by the time he turns back my way.

FACE IT, THANOS, OLD BOY, THERE'S *NOTHING* UNDER THE STARS THAT CAN *LAY A FINGER* ON ME.

I'M JUST *TOO FAST.* NEED ANY FURTHER *CONVINCING?*

NO, I AM A *BELIEVER.*

THEN HERE'S THE *DEAL,* PURPLE PUSS.

YOU CAN EITHER TELL ME *WHY* YOU'RE SO HOT TO GET YOUR HANDS ON ALL THOSE *SOUL GEMS,* OR I CAN *BEAT* YOU TO *DEATH* AT SUPER SPEED.

WE CAN EITHER DO THIS THE *EASY* OR *HARD* WAY.

TALKING OR BEING TURNED INTO GRAPE JELLY.

WHICH IS IT GOING TO BE?

I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING.

I DISCOVERED THE TRUE NATURE OF THE GEMS WHILE GAZING INTO THE INFINITY WELL.

IT WAS A WELL KEPT SECRET FOR OVER A THOUSAND BILLION YEARS. THE GEMS COME FROM BEFORE ALL RECORDED TIME.

THEY WERE ONCE A SINGLE UNIT, A LONE ENTITY.

THEY WERE A SENTIENT BEING OF LIMITLESS POWER.

AT THE TIME, THIS BEING WAS THE ONLY LIVING THING THAT EXISTED WITHIN ANY AND ALL REALITIES.

It was all that was and all that was was it.

This being was infinity and forever.

No one would fault you if you were to call it God. What other name would fit?

But I doubt it ever had a name or any use for one.

FOR IT WAS *MORE ALONE* THAN ANY BEING HAS EVER BEEN.

ALL THAT *WAS* WAS ALREADY *PART* OF ITSELF. THERE WAS NO *OTHER* IN ITS LIFE.

A MORE *DESOLATE EXISTENCE* IS BEYOND IMAGINATION.

I BELIEVE THAT IS WHY IT CHOSE TO PUT AN *END* TO ITSELF.

BUT SUCH *POWER* DOES NOT GIVE UP THE GHOST *EASILY*.

FROM ITS *ASHES* ROSE ALL THAT IS CURRENTLY *REALITY*, IN ALL ITS MANY FORMS.

THE *CORE* OF THIS BEING'S MIGHT WAS *REINCARNATED* IN THE FORM OF THE SIX *INFINITY GEMS*.

THEY ARE THE *ULTIMATE* IN *POWER*, THE DARKEST *SECRET* IN ALL THE UNIVERSE.

IT WAS BY *MERE CHANCE* THAT I HAPPENED UPON IT WHILE STUDYING THE WELL'S DEPTHS.

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? THE *GREATEST SECRET* OF THE AGES SITTING OUT IN *PLAIN SIGHT* FOR EONS, WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO *NOTICE* IT.

WITH SUCH POWER UNDER MY CONTROL, I MIGHT SIT AT *DEATH'S SIDE*...

...AS HER *EQUAL*.

MY, SUCH A *TOUCHING AMBITION*, COMING FROM SUCH A DREARY FELLOW.

PITY IT'S A DREAM THAT WILL *NEVER* BE *FULFILLED*.

AT LEAST NOT BY *YOU*.

THE SECRET OF THE *INFINITY GEMS* IS NOW *MINE* ALONE.

I THINK NOT.

HOW DID A *FOOL* LIKE YOU EVER GAIN *IMMORTALITY?*

BY... BY BEING THE *BEST* AT WHAT I DO, NAMELY, *RUNNING.*

AND... BY BEING THE *SOLE SURVIVOR* OF ONE OF THE FIRST *SENTIENT* RACES SPAWNED BY THE UNIVERSE.

WELL, IT CERTAINLY WASN'T FOR *THINKING*, WAS IT?

THE ONLY *INTELLIGENCE* YOU'VE EXHIBITED SO FAR IS REALIZING YOUR *SPEED* WAS THE ONLY THING THAT COULD *SAVE* YOU FROM ME.

A *STRATEGY* PROVIDED TO YOU BY THE *GRAND MASTER*, NO DOUBT.

BUT YOU STILL COULDN'T RESIST STOPPING TO *GLOAT* ONCE YOU *THOUGHT* ME *DEFEATED.*

THOUGHT?

NOT ALL *WEAPONS* ARE SOMETHING YOU WOULD *RECOGNIZE* AS SUCH.

SOME *DEADLY TOYS* APPEAR TO BE NOTHING BUT *HARMLESS BAUBLES.*

USUALLY THEY ARE THE MOST *DANGEROUS* TYPE OF *WEAPON.*

INFINITY GEMS. THE *GARDENER'S* CONTROLS *TIME.*

HE WAS ABLE TO SOMEWHAT *TAP* INTO ITS POWER *WITHOUT* TRULY *REALIZING* IT.

IT WAS A *SUBCONSCIOUS ACT*, MUCH THE WAY *YOU* WERE ABLE TO UTILIZE YOUR GEM.

YOUR GEM *DIDN'T* MAKE YOU *FASTER*. IT ALLOWED YOU TO SUBCONSCIOUSLY *MANIPULATE SPACE*.

THAT'S WHY YOU SOMETIMES *ARRIVED* AT A DESTINATION BEFORE YOU REALIZED YOU WERE EVEN *HEADING* FOR IT.

IT'S CALLED *MENTAL TELEPORTATION*.

OF COURSE, THAT'S ONLY A *PART* OF WHAT THIS *WONDROUS JEWEL* IS CAPABLE OF.

BUT YOU'RE *NOT LISTENING* TO ANY OF THIS, ARE YOU?

YOU *CAN'T HEAR* A WORD I'M SAYING.

ONE OF THE DISADVANTAGES OF *OLD AGE*...

...THANKS TO THE POWER OF THE *GARDENER'S INFINITY GEM*.

TELL ME, RUNNER, HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE MORE THAN A *MILLION YEARS OLD*?

YOU ELDERS *AREN'T* QUITE AS *IMMORTAL* AS YOU IMAGINED.

GREATLY *DECELERATED AGING*, NOTHING MORE. STILL MORTAL. THOUGH YOU COULD REMAIN LIKE THIS FOR, OH, ANOTHER FEW BILLION YEARS.

THIS IS A *ROUGH WAY* TO DISCOVER SUCH A FACT, ISN'T IT?

BUT DON'T WORRY; I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU IN SO *SORRY* A *PREDICAMENT*.

YOU WILL BE MORE *USE* TO ME IN A MUCH *YOUNGER* FORM.

FROM ONE *EXTREME* TO *ANOTHER*.

IS *THIS STATE* MORE TO YOUR LIKING?

YOU KNOW, RUNNER, YOU APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN A *PLEASANT ENOUGH* CHILD.

A PITY YOU GREW INTO SUCH A *ROTTER*.

MAYBE YOU'LL TURN OUT BETTER THIS *SECOND TIME* AROUND.

"But do not fret, child.

"We are now heading off on a little trip.

"Going to visit your Uncle Collector."

Of course the Collector's ready for me, all set to blow this Titan to atoms the moment I appear outside his floating treasure house.

That's why I decide to teleport directly inside the installation, instead.

YOU CAN TURN DOWN YOUR *DEFENSE SCREEN*, COLLECTOR.

IT IS A TERRIBLE *WASTE* OF *ENERGY*, AND WOULD NOT HAVE STOPPED ME IF I HAD DECIDED TO *CONFRONT* IT.

SO I SEE.

WHAT HAVE YOU THERE?

A PRIZE OF GREAT *VALUE* AND EXTREME *RARITY*.

A *TREASURE* I AM WILLING TO TRADE FOR AN *INFINITY GEM*.

DO YOU NOT RECOGNIZE YOUR FELLOW ELDER, THE *RUNNER*?

UNBELIEVABLE...

YOU HAD BEST BELIEVE IT. TERRIBLY *VULNERABLE* IN THIS CONDITION, IS HE NOT?

A PERSON COULD DO JUST ABOUT *ANYTHING* THEY WISHED TO WITH SUCH A *HELPLESS BABE*.

INCLUDING ADDING HIM TO A *COLLECTION* OF *RARE BEINGS*.

LIKE THE ONE YOU HAVE ABOARD THIS SHIP.

I WOULD IMAGINE POSSESSING YOUR VERY OWN ELDER WOULD MAKE FOR THE CROWNING TOUCH ON SUCH A GROUPING.

A TEMPTING THOUGHT.

SO, WHICH IS IT TO BE, COLLECTOR: BARTER OR BATTLE?

YOUR ANSWER, ELDER?

I WILL ACCEPT THE DEAL UNDER ONE CONDITION.

WHICH IS?

THAT A PROMISE OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN MY EXISTENCE ACCOMPANIES THE CHILD.

YOU HAVE MY WORD ON THAT, COLLECTOR.

AND, AS YOU KNOW, THANOS ALWAYS HONORS HIS PLEDGES.

SO I'VE HEARD.

COME TO ME, MY CHILD.

YOU'LL FIND YOUR TREASURE, THANOS, IN YONDER DISPLAY CASE.

IT'S NOT A VERY GOOD BARGAIN YOU'VE STRUCK THIS DAY, TITAN.

I'VE STUDIED THAT TRINKET THROUGH EVERY SCIENTIFIC MEANS AVAILABLE, AND IT IS MY CONSIDERED OPINION THAT...

...IT'S NOTHING MORE THAN A WORTHLESS HUNK OF POLISHED GLASS!

I'M NOT SURPRISED TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT, OLD FRIEND.

TO OPEN THIS JEWEL'S HIDDEN SECRET REQUIRES GREAT IMAGINATION.

SOMETHING A COLLECTOR OF TRIVIA WOULD BE SORELY LACKING IN.

THE MAGNITUDE OF THIS GEM'S POWER IS NOT SOMETHING YOU WOULD HAVE ACCIDENTALLY STUMBLED UPON, OR EVEN EASILY GRASPED MENTALLY.

MY GUESS IS THAT MORE THAN ONE MIND HAS BEEN SHATTERED CONTEMPLATING THIS TRINKET.

ITS POTENTIAL IS BEYOND THE SCOPE OF MOST INTELLECTS.

THIS GEM CAN CONTROL REALITY.

ALLOW ME TO DEMONSTRATE A MERE IOTA OF ITS MIGHT.

HUMBLING, ISN'T IT?

I HAD IT IN MY POSSESSION ALL THIS TIME AND...

TAKE IT AWAY FROM HERE! PLEASE!

GLADLY.

NOW ONLY THE *GRAND MASTER'S* INFINITY GEM REMAINS TO BE BROUGHT INTO THE FOLD.

HE'LL NOT BE AS EASILY *DUPED* AS I WAS, TITAN.

NO, I ANTICIPATE HIM BEING MY MOST *DIFFICULT ADVERSARY.*

THAT IS WHY I HAVE SAVED HIM FOR *LAST.*

IT IS A CONFLICT I MUST NOW HASTEN TO.

BUT BEFORE I GO, THERE IS *SOMETHING* I SHOULD TELL YOU.

THAT *SPELL OF INFANCY* I PLACED ON THE RUNNER...

...ITS EFFECTS ARE ONLY *TEMPORARY.*

YOU WERE GOING TO ADD ME TO THAT FILTHY COLLECTION OF YOURS, WEREN'T YOU?

I...I...I...

I BID YOU FAREWELL, ELDERS.

YOU TWO-BIT WEASLING GARBAGE PICKER!

I'LL SHOW YOU!

"May all your differences be small ones."

PLEASE! LISTEN TO REASON!

The GRAND MASTER, the strategist supreme.

No longer need he monitor my comings and goings.

He knows fully well what my next destination is.

And he's more than ready for me.

He is the champion gamesman, has spent a thousand lifetimes devoted to nothing but the contest.

Throughout the centuries he has honed his talents at every game of chance and skill ever created. His nerves are ice; his mind capable of devising the most complex of strategies. And he has power, great powers all his own.

I know he has arranged things so that I will have to deal with him on the level of his choosing.

After all, he is the Grand Master.

GREETINGS, THANOS.

GREETINGS. WHAT WILL THE GAME BE?

ARE YOU NOT THE LEAST BIT *INTERESTED* AS TO *WHY* YOU MUST *MATCH WITS* WITH ME IN ORDER TO ACQUIRE YOUR *FINAL OBJECTIVE*?

NO. BUT I SUSPECT YOU ARE GOING TO *INSIST* ON TELLING ME NONETHELESS.

MOST DEFINITELY.

TO BEGIN WITH, THERE AWAITS THE PRIZE YOU DESIRE.

THAT IS A *PAN-DIMENSIONAL TRANSPORTER* THE GEM FLOATS ABOVE.

SEVERAL LAYERS OF *FORCE SHIELDING* PROTECT THE GEM AND THE TRANSPORTER FROM *THEFT* AND/OR *TAMPERING*.

MOST IMPRESSIVE.

IT GETS BETTER.

IF EVEN *ONE* OF THOSE SHIELDS IS BREACHED, THE *TRANSPORTER* IS PROGRAMMED TO GO INTO *IMMEDIATE OPERATION*.

AND?

CONTINUOUS *RANDOM DESTINATION SELECTION*. THE GEM WILL BE INSTANTLY TELEPORTED TO AN *UNKNOWN LOCATION*.

A LOCATION I WON'T BE ABLE TO TRACE *THROUGH* THE *TRANSPORTER*, BECAUSE...

...IT WILL *SELF-DESTRUCT* AS SOON AS IT *COMPLETES* ITS FUNCTION.

YOU CATCH ON QUICKLY, TITAN.

AND, OF COURSE, YOU REALIZE THE TRANSPORTER IS SET TO *ACTIVATE* SHOULD ANYTHING *INTERRUPT* MY ORGANIC *VITAL SIGNS*, WHICH ARE BEING CONSTANTLY TRANSMITTED TO IT.

NATURALLY.

SO, IN OTHER WORDS, I MUST PLAY YOUR *SILLY GAME* OR FORGET ABOUT *EVER* GAINING THE SIXTH GEM.

YOU'LL SOON SEE JUST HOW SILLY THIS GAME REALLY IS.

THE TRANSPORTER IS PROGRAMMED TO *SHUT DOWN* IN THE EVENT I *LOSE* OUR LITTLE ENCOUNTER.

AND THE CONTEST?

A *QUASI-MILITARY EXERCISE* SET ON A *MENTAL PLANE* OF EXISTENCE.

EACH CONTESTANT WILL BE EQUIPPED WITH AN *IDENTICAL SUIT* OF *BATTLE ARMOR*.

A *KILLSHOT* WILL *IMMOBILIZE* THE LOSER AND *TERMINATE* THE GAME PROGRAM.

I TAKE IT YOU'RE WILLING TO PUT UP YOUR *FIVE SOUL GEMS* AS A *WAGER* IN THIS CONTEST, JUST TO MAKE THINGS MORE INTERESTING.

WHY NOT? I *DO NOT PLAN* ON LOSING.

I HAVE PLACED THE GEMS IN A *STASIS FIELD* THAT WILL *DEACTIVATE* IN THE EVENT OF MY *DEATH*.

I ALWAYS LIKE TO PLAY FOR THE *HIGHEST STAKES* POSSIBLE.

BEFORE WE DON OUR *HEADSETS*, HAVE YOU ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS?

IT ALL SEEMS SIMPLE ENOUGH. CHILDISHLY SIMPLE.

THEN SHALL WE BEGIN?

READY ANY TIME YOU ARE.

I must admit, the program is much more sophisticated than I imagined it would be.

I could swear the battle armour I wear is real and not some computer generated illusion.

And the gaming arena is equally impressive.

Like all the Grand Master's fantasies, it has no link with reality but nonetheless has a reality all its own.

I also realize in a flash that the Grand Master has lied to me.

I sense the truth of the program. A killshot will not just immobilize. It will actually kill. Kill as truly as if the shot were taken back on the plane of reality.

Am I surprised? Not at all. I expected no less from the Grand Master.

The stakes we play for are astronomical. In his place I would have done the same.

The Grand Master wastes no time with preliminary jousts.

He immediately goes for the throat.

But I have played this game a thousand times back in the real world.

I know the rules and how to break them.

And like the Grand Master, I realize the best defense is a strong offense

Unfortunately the Grand Master also appreciates the value of a strategic retreat.

His aerial assault admittedly catches me off guard.

Some old tricks are still as effective as the first time they were ever used.

Years of experience immediately warn the Grand Master of the mistake he has made.

But it is too late for him to do anything about it.

CHECK.

CHECKMATE.

A cliché to the very end.

I USUALLY LOATHE CHEATING AN OPPONENT, THANOS.

BUT THE STAKES WERE JUST TOO *DAMN HIGH*, AND YOU'RE *TOO DANGEROUS* AN ENEMY TO *TRIFLE* WITH.

THAT'S WHY I *SABOTAGED* YOUR WEAPONS SYSTEM BEFORE THE GAME.

IT'S A *SILICON-BASED FUNGUS* YOU'RE ENCASED IN. IT WILL *PERMEATE* YOUR *ENTIRE BEING* WITHIN MOMENTS, IF IT HASN'T ALREADY.

YOU SEE, I, TOO, HAVE BEGUN TO REALIZE THE *TRUE POTENTIAL* OF THE SOUL GEMS AND HAVE *DESIRED* THEIR POWER.

OF COURSE, MY *STUDIES* WERE NOWHERE NEARLY AS FAR ALONG AS YOUR *OWN.*

BUT YOUR RECENT ACTIONS *CONFIRMED* MY SUSPICIONS CONCERNING THE GEMS.

SO I DID *NOTHING* TO INTERFERE WITH YOUR *TAKING* THE JEWELS FROM MY FELLOW *ELDERS* AND THE *IN-BETWEENER.*

IT SAVED ME THE *TROUBLE* OF HAVING TO GO AFTER THEM *MYSELF.*

I HATE *TRAVEL.*

BUT I EXPECT I'LL FIND IT MORE *TOLERABLE* NOW THAT THE SIX *SOUL GEMS* ARE MINE.

FOR THAT, I THANK YOU.

NO...

IT CAN'T BE...

He had figured all the odds, worked all the angles, thought out every possibility.

But in some games that just is not enough.

Elders are not the only ones capable of cheating.

Of course, with the five Infinity Gems in my possession, I could have taken the sixth from the Grand Master in any of a thousand ways.

But this method was surely the most enjoyable.

The Grand Master was an idiot for not keeping the gem on his person.

He must have surely known its power.

It would have told him that it was a robot facing him across the gaming table.

For that is this Infinity Gem's talent.

It is a doorway into the mind.

But the Grand Master's ego got the best of him when he decided to count solely on his gambling abilities.

He lived the gambler's life to the last.

All in all, I am afraid the Elders proved to be a pretty ineffective and stupid lot.

BUT THE *GLORIOUS ENDS* MORE THAN MAKE UP FOR THE *TEDIOUS MEANS* IT TOOK TO GAIN THEM.

MIND! SOUL!

REALITY! TIME! SPACE! POWER!

SO MUCH MORE THAN EVEN THE *COSMIC CUBE* GAVE ME!

ALL MINE!

I CONTROL IT ALL!

THE UNIVERSE BELONGS TO ME!!

THE TIME GEM: With it I can reach back into the primordial past or delve into the far distant future.

Nothing that ever was or ever will be can hide from my inspection.

And if I find anything which offends, I can modify it to fit my every need or want.

Infinity is clay waiting for me to mold it.

THE SPACE GEM: Distance becomes a mere intellectual concept.

I consider the possibility and I am there. I can be everywhere or nowhere.

Space is mine to do with as I wish. The very heavens will rearrange themselves to conform with my sense of aesthetics.

I foresee a new universe on the horizon.

THE MIND GEM: No thought shall remain a secret to me. Every mind is mine to open and examine.

I can reach out and feel the dreams and aspirations of every living being in the entire universe.

They touch me but do not affect me; for I am Thanos, far above such concerns.

Billions of fertile minds waiting for me to sew the seeds of my own perceptions and goals.

A universe of thralls.

THE GEM OF POWER: It backs the might of the other five Jewels of Infinity. This beauty makes all things possible.

It draws strength from the ends of infinity, it enables thought to become reality, it is the glue that holds what is in place.

But it is also the tool that allows the five to sculpt existence in any manner I choose.

With it I need fear nothing.

THE SOUL GEM: Once Adam Warlock used it reluctantly to steal the souls of his enemies. Like all mortals, he was a fool. He had no idea what wonders this jewel can accomplish.

As with the other gems, this is a tool of manipulation. With it the very core of what life is can be twisted and bent to my fancy.

With naught but a thought I could transform a race of peaceable sentients into a barbaric horde of cannibals.

I can turn sinners into saints and saints into monsters.

And the dead--their souls are also within my control.

THE REALITY GEM: How can one explain the inconceivable? Few rational minds can grasp the myriad actualities possible.

Heaven or Hell, mine to choose.

Scientific laws are within my power to repeal. Facts lose their meaning because they no longer have to be.

I dream and it will be.

And what I wish to be is by the side of...

...MY LOVE.

SURELY YOU *SENSE* THE *CHANGE* WITHIN ME? HOW COULD YOU *NOT*?

I AM *POWER* NEVER DREAMT OF BY EVEN ONE SUCH AS *YOURSELF*!

THANOS STANDS BEFORE YOU, AS A *FORCE* TO BE RECKONED WITH!

I NOW EXIST ON A PLANE ABOVE ALL *CARE*. NO LONGER NEED I FEAR EVEN *CHAOS* AND *ORDER*.

FOR THEY ARE NOTHING BUT *PART* OF WHAT I *AM* AND CONTROL!

ALL THAT IS IS *SLAVE* TO MY WHIM.

I AM REALITY.

I AM INFINITY.

I AM THE ALMIGHTY.

MY MISTRESS WISHES TO INFORM YOU THAT SHE COMPLETELY UNDERSTANDS YOUR *WORDS* AND *ACTUALITY*.

BUT SHE MUST ALSO COMPREHEND *WHY* I DID ALL THIS!

I DID IT FOR *HER*!

I LOVED, AND STILL DO LOVE, *MY MISTRESS*, BUT I COULD NOT BE CONTENT TO BE MERELY HER *SLAVE*.

ONE SUCH AS HER DESERVES A LOVER WHO IS HER *EQUAL*, OR *BETTER*!

MY VENTURE WAS NEVER MEANT TO BE A *THREAT* TO HER!

SHE IS MY *LADY*, AND I *LOVE* HER ABOVE ALL ELSE!

MY ONLY WISH IS TO BE HER *CONSORT* AND SIT AT HER SIDE AS AN *EQUAL*!

MISTRESS DEATH SAYS THAT LORD THANOS'S EVERY WISH IS HER COMMAND.

YOUR THRONE!

WE WILL SPEND AN ETERNITY OF BLISS TOGETHER, MY LOVE...

YOU WILL SEE...

MY MISTRESS WISHES TO INFORM YOU IF *THAT* IS WHAT YOU *WISH*, THAT WILL BE WHAT *IS*.

WHY DO YOU STILL ADDRESS ME THROUGH YOUR MINIONS?

I AM YOUR MATE!

YOU WILL TALK TO ME DIRECTLY!

MY MISTRESS WISHES, WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, TO POINT OUT THAT WITH YOUR NEWLY ACQUIRED POWER, YOU ARE NOT HER EQUAL.

YOU ARE HER SUPERIOR. IN ALL WAYS, YOU ARE MANY STATIONS ABOVE HER. SHE IS BUT A THREAD IN THE FABRIC THAT IS YOURSELF.

IT WOULD BE UNSEEMLY FOR EVEN MISTRESS DEATH TO ADDRESS THE ALL-POWERFUL DIRECTLY.

I could force her to speak directly to me.

I have the power to bend even her to my will.

But what good would that do?

That's not the way I wanted it to be.

I desire her love, not her blind subservience.

How could I have miscalculated so badly?

Thanos, the master schemer and deceiver.

I set out on a quest beyond the reach of any but myself, an impossible mission.

And I succeeded at it. I have wrestled the reins of power from the hands of the Supreme Being.

No sentient could ever dream or hope for more than I have accomplished.

Who could have guessed that becoming God would prove to be such a hollow victory?

***THANOS QUEST #1-2* INSIDE-FRONT- & INSIDE-BACK-COVER PINUPS** BY RON LIM

***THANOS QUEST* ONE-SHOT (1ST EDITION, 2000) COVER**
BY RON LIM, JOHN BEATTY & THOMAS VELAZQUEZ

MEANWHILE, IN *SILVER SURFER #41–43*...

Unable to escape Dynamo City, the Silver Surfer attempted to find work to earn the credits he needed to pay the city's exit tax. But without his cosmic powers he possessed no marketable job skills, and soon found himself destitute, living in Dynamo City's shantytown. There he met Zeaklar Belgewater, a fellow alien unable to make a living thanks to Dynamo City's tangled bureaucracy. Zeaklar suggested several jobs for the Surfer, including entertaining the masses by selling his memories or putting on energy-based light shows, but the City's shrewd contract negotiators made turning a profit impossible.

In frustration, the Silver Surfer located and confronted The Great I, leader of Dynamo City, but found him to be a blind, deaf and mute creature only interested in data processing. Arrested for trespassing in The Great I's residence, Zeaklar and the Surfer were tried in a highly biased courtroom, convicted of treason, and sentenced to death. However, Dynamo City's method of execution was teleporting its victims into space — and once he was clear of the city's borders, the Surfer's powers immediately returned. He saved Zeaklar from asphyxiation, dropped him on a nearby world, and returned to Titan to investigate Drax's claims that Thanos still lived.

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THE SILVER SURFER®

A FISTFUL OF TROUBLE

TO SAVE HIS PLANET, NORRIN RADD SURRENDERED HIS FREEDOM TO BECOME HERALD TO THE WORLD-DEVOURING GALACTUS. COATED WITH GALACTIC GLAZE, GIVEN A SURFBOARD OBEYING HIS MENTAL COMMANDS, AND GRANTED THE POWER COSMIC, HE NOW SOARS THE UNIVERSE A SHINING SENTINEL OF THE SPACEWAYS! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . . THE SILVER SURFER!

EPIPHANY

IN A CRYPT DEEP WITHIN THE SATELLITE TITAN: A STRANGE MEETING PLACE FOR THE SILVER SURFER, DRAX THE DESTROYER, EROS AND THIS WORLD'S LEADER, MENTOR.

...AND THE DESTROYER KEPT INSISTING THAT THIS WAS NOT THANOS'S REMAINS.

HE BECAME QUITE A NUISANCE ABOUT IT,

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT WAS TO QUIET HIM OR BECAUSE SOME PART OF ME SUSPECTED THE DESTROYER MIGHT BE CORRECT IN HIS ASSUMPTION.

AFTER ALL HE AND MY EVIL SON ONCE SHARED SOME MYSTERIOUS LINK.

SO MENTOR HAD ME COME DOWN HERE AND INSPECT THE REMAINS MORE CAREFULLY.

YOU CAN'T IMAGINE THE HORRIFIC SHOCK OF DISCOVERING THIS!

JIM STARLIN	RON LIM	TOM CHRISTOPHER	BRAD K. JOYCE	TOM VINCENT	CRAIG ANDERSON	TOM DEFALCO
WRITER	PENCILER	INKER	LETTERER	COLORIST	EDITOR	CHIEF

THESE ARE BIO-SYSTEM BOOSTER CAPACITORS, WHERE THE BONE MARROW SHOULD BE.

WHEN LIVING, THIS BRUTE MUST HAVE EASILY BEEN AS STRONG AS EARTH'S HULK!

THIS IS A MECHANICAL AUGMENTATION THANOS WOULD HAVE NEVER NEEDED. HE WAS BORN WITH MORE THAN SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH.

THEN I WAS TRICKED. I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED THANOS'S DEFEAT CAME TOO EASILY.

THANOS OBVIOUSLY FAKED HIS OWN DEATH TO GET ME OFF HIS TRAIL.

YES, FOR SOME STRANGE REASON HE CONSIDERS YOU A VERY REAL THREAT.

BUT FOR THE LIFE OF ME I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY.

THANOS IS APPARENTLY THE MORE PERCEPTIVE OF YOUR TWO OFFSPRING, FRIEND MENTOR.

ENOUGH!

THANOS STILL LIVES!!

WE MUST HUNT HIM DOWN AND DESTROY HIM!!

HOW DO YOU PROPOSE WE DO THAT, DESTROYER?

YOUR LATEST INCARNATION NO LONGER HAS THE ABILITY TO PINPOINT OUR ENEMY'S LOCATION AMIDST THE VASTNESS OF THE UNIVERSE.

THEN WE COULD... COULD...

AND IF THAT DIDN'T WORK WE COULD... COULD...

OR WE COULD... COULD...

I DON'T KNOW, SURFER.

NEITHER DO I.

IT APPEARS THAT ALL WE CAN DO IS *WAIT* FOR THANOS TO MAKE THE NEXT MOVE AND BE READY TO *COUNTER* IT.

DESTROYER NOT SURE HE LIKES PLAN!

NEITHER DO I, DESTROYER.

NEITHER DO I.

NEAR COUNTLESS LIGHT YEARS AWAY, ON THE FARTHEST END OF THE MILKY WAY GALAXY.

THIS MASSIVE RED GIANT SPANS MORE THAN 2,595,000,000 MILES ACROSS -- 3,000 TIMES LARGER THAN EARTH'S SUN.

ITS DIAMETER IS NEARLY *TWICE* THE SIZE OF THE ENTIRE *SOL* SOLAR SYSTEM.

SO DISTANT IS THIS STAR THAT EARTH SCIENTISTS HAVE NEVER SEEN IT, LET ALONE NAMED IT.

THIS IS ONE OF NATURES MOST POWERFUL ELEMENTS, A GLEAMING 3,200°C JEWEL OF THE UNIVERSE.

IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS IS NOT A TOY.

BUT FOR A SELECT FEW, EVEN SUCH STRICT LAWS OF NATURE DO NOT APPLY.

NOTHING IS BEYOND THE POWER OF THANOS OF TITAN!

ALL THE UNIVERSE IS BUT CLAY IN MY HANDS, WAITING TO BE MOLDED TO MY ARTISTIC FANCY.

LET IT BE KNOWN THAT THANOS DECLARES HIMSELF THE SUPREME BEING OF THIS AND ALL UNIVERSES!

PITY ANY WHO WOULD CHALLENGE THAT CLAIM.

FOR MIGHTY THANOS IS THE POSSESSOR OF SIX SHINY TRINKETS.

THE INFINITY GEMS!

ONCE THEY WERE PART OF AN OMNIPOTENT BEING WHICH LIVED COUNTLESS MILLENNIA AGO.

IT WAS ALL THAT WAS THROUGHOUT ALL INFINITY.

BUT IT FOUND SUCH AN EXISTENCE POINTLESS AND UNBEARABLE.

AND SO IT COMMITTED COSMIC SUICIDE!

BUT SUCH POWER DOES NOT EASILY DIE.

FROM THE ASHES OF THIS DYING ALL-POWERFUL BEING SPRANG...

2

...THE UNIVERSE!

THIS BEING'S DEATH WAS THE COMPOST ALL EXISTENCE PERCOLATED FROM!

THE STARS GENERATED FROM THE DEPTHS OF ITS DECAYING CARCASS!

FROM THOSE GLEAMING MAGGOTS CAME THE PLANETS!

AND ON THOSE SATELLITES GREW THE ABOMINATION CALLED LIFE!

LIFE, MY ARCH NEMESIS!

THE ENEMY OF MY ONE TRUE LOVE, DEATH!

YET EVEN THROUGH ALL THE CHAOS OF CREATION, THE VERY HEART OF THE ALMIGHTY ONE SURVIVED--IT WOULD NOT DIE!

BUT TO ENDURE, IT HAD TO METAMORPHOSE.

FOR EONS THIS TRUTH LAY HIDDEN.

NO ONE SUSPECTED THAT THE INFINITY GEMS WERE THE REINCARNATED SOUL OF THAT ONCE-GREAT BEING!

BUT CRAFTY THANOS DISCOVERED AND UNDERSTOOD THIS SECRET!

HE SOUGHT OUT THE INFINITY GEMS, MADE THEM HIS AND GAINED MASTERY OVER THE UNIVERSE!

FOR I NOW POSSESS THE HEART OF THE UNIVERSE!

BUT WITH SUCH GREAT MIGHT COMES EVEN GREATER RESPONSIBILITY.

WHAT AM I TO DO WITH LIMITLESS POWER OVER ALL THAT IS?

MY FIRST COURSE OF ACTION SHOULD BE INSURING THAT NONE TRIES TO USURP THIS POWER FROM ME.

MY ENEMIES MUST FALL!

SINCE MY RESURRECTION, MY COSMIC SPANNING SENSES HAVE WARNED ME THAT ONLY ONE BEING REPRESENTS ANY TRUE THREAT TO ME:

THE SILVER SURFER!

OF COURSE THAT DANGER MAY HAVE WANED SINCE MY ACQUIRING OF THE INFINITY GEMS.

BUT EVEN A SUPREME BEING SHOULD NEVER TAKE NEEDLESS CHANCES.

SO LET THE SILVER SURFER BE THE FIRST TO FALL BEFORE MY NEWFOUND MIGHT!

THERE STANDS MY ENEMY WITH OTHERS WHO HAVE SOUND REASON TO FEAR MY WRATH.

BUT WHO IS THAT BEHEMOTH WITH THEM?

OF COURSE, IT IS MY OLD FOE, DRAX THE DESTROYER!

LIKE ME, HE LIVES ONCE AGAIN.

KRONOS CREATED THAT JUGGERNAUT TO HAUNT AND HUNT ME DOWN IN MY FORMER LIFE.

AND EVEN THROUGH HE WAS NEVER SUCCESSFUL AT THAT ENDEAVOR, KRONOS HAS OBVIOUSLY GIVEN THIS HULKING MENACE ANOTHER CHANCE AT ME.

BUT THE DESTROYER SEEMS RADICALLY CHANGED FOR THIS RESURRECTION.

AND NOT FOR THE BETTER.

HE IS AN IMPERFECT FOE, BUT ONE THAT SHOULD STILL BE DEALT WITH HARSHLY.

AS SHOULD BE MY BROTHER, EROS, AND FATHER, MENTOR.

WITH BUT A THOUGHT I COULD BLINK ALL FOUR ANNOYANCES OUT OF EXISTENCE.

WITH BUT A THOUGHT...

THANOS IS UNDENIABLY NOW THIS REALITY'S SUPREME BEING.

YET WHAT GOOD IS SUCH A VAUNTED POSITION IF ONE CANNOT SLOWLY SAVOR ABUSING SAID POSITION'S POWER?

SO I SHALL SETTLE ACCOUNTS WITH THE SURFER AND DESTROYER IMMEDIATELY.

MENTOR AND EROS I WILL SAVE FOR LATER.

I WONDER WHOSE BODY WE HAVE HERE

WE'LL PROBABLY NEVER KNOW.

IS SOMETHING WRONG, DRAX?

DESTROYER SENSE SOMETHING...

THERE!!

IT LOOKS TO BE SOME KIND OF A TRANS-DIMENSIONAL CONDUIT!

YOU DON'T THINK...

BY THE STARS!

SOME FORCE IS TRYING TO SUCK US INTO THAT VORTEX!

MY BOARD!

HOW CAN THIS BE?

FATHER, THE SURFER AND THE DESTROYER ARE BEING SWEPT AWAY!

THEY ARE BOTH SUCH *POWERHOUSES!*

YOU AND *I* SHOULD HAVE FALLEN *VICTIM* TO THE VORTEX BEFORE THEY DID.

IT'S ALMOST AS IF IT WANTED *ONLY* THEM.

ON A DISTANT WORLD OF THE DEAD...

WHERE ARE WE?!

OF THAT I AM NOT SURE.

BUT I AM CERTAIN I KNOW *WHY* WE ARE HERE.

BEHIND YOU, DRAX.

THANOS!!

DESTROYER'S BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU, VILLAIN!

DESTROYER WAS BORN TO KILL YOU!

DESTROYER WILL NOW--

...PLEASE BE QUIET.

BY THE GRAND NEBULA!

YOU FROZE DRAX IN MID LEAP!

HOW?

I MERELY CAUSED TIME TO COME TO A STANDSTILL WITHIN HIS FRAME.

YOU CAN DO THAT?!

IT IS BUT ONE OF THE NEW AND WONDROUS TALENTS I'VE GAINED SINCE LAST WE MET.

OBSERVE!

YOU *BLINK* AND YOU SUDDENLY FIND YOURSELF DEEP WITHIN THIS PLANET'S *PREHISTORIC PAST.*

FEEL THE STAGNANT AIR, SURFER. THIS IS *NO ILLUSION!*

IT'S *TRUE!* THIS IS *REAL!*

AS IS THE *LAST DAY* OF *EXISTENCE* FOR THIS DOOMED WORLD, ABOUT TO PLUMMET INTO ITS OWN *SUN.*

HOW?

BECAUSE I NOW HOLD THE *POWER* OF THE *INFINITY GEMS* WITHIN MY GRASP.

WITH THEM IN HAND, I HAVE BECOME THE *MASTER* OF ALL *TIME!*

A QUESTION FOR YOU, MY GLEAMING ADVERSARY:

ARE WE FLOATING ABOVE A CROWDED NEW YORK CITY STREET...

ELITCH'S

...OR STILL ON A DEAD WORLD, LIGHT YEARS AWAY FROM EARTH?

THERE WAS NO SENSE OF BEING TELEPORTED?!

THIS CANNOT BE!

BUT IT IS!

WE CAN BE ANYWHERE!

WE CAN BE EVERYWHERE!

WE CAN BE NOWHERE!

DISTANCE HOLDS NO MEANING FOR US ANY LONGER!

...TEAR YOU TO PIECES?

BECAUSE I NOW HOLD THE POWER OF THE INFINITY GEMS WITHIN MY GRASP.

WITH THEM IN HAND, I HAVE BECOME THE MASTER OF ALL SPACE!!

THANOS...

THANOS.

THANOS!

THANOS!

DRAX?

THANOS, I WILL KILL THE SILVER SURFER!

DRAX, WHY?

THE VERY ESSENCE OF HIS SPIRIT HAS BEEN ALTERED.

HIS PRERESURRECTIONAL MOTIVATION TO KILL ME HAS BEEN REDIRECTED TOWARD YOUR PERSON.

YOU ASK HOW CAN THIS BE?

BECAUSE I NOW HOLD THE POWER OF THE INFINITY GEMS WITHIN MY GRASP.

WITH THEM IN HAND, I HAVE BECOME THE MASTER OF THE SOUL!

"ISN'T IT AMAZING HOW YOUR LIFE FLASHES BEFORE YOU DURING THE LAST MOMENTS OF LIFE?

"BUT OF COURSE YOU REALIZE THIS LITTLE EXPOSITION IS BEING ORCHESTRATED BY AN OUTSIDE FORCE.

"CAN'T YOU FEEL IT CREEPING ABOUT THE SHADOWS OF MEMORY?

"THERE'S NO REASON TO KEEP THINKING OVER AND OVER AGAIN THAT THIS CAN'T ACTUALLY BE TAKING PLACE!

"IT'S A FACT: THIS IS ALL REALLY HAPPENING!"

BECAUSE I NOW HOLD THE POWER OF THE INFINITY GEMS WITHIN MY GRASP.

WITH THEM IN HAND, I HAVE BECOME THE MASTER OF THE MIND!

BUT WHAT IS *REAL* AND WHAT IS *NOT?*

A *PHILOSOPHICAL QUESTION?* NOT AT ALL.

I'M SURE YOU TWO BRAVE SOULS ARE *GRAPPLING* WITH THAT MOST *VEXING* OF *PROBLEMS* EVEN AS I SPEAK.

IT WOULD BE *BEST* TO LOOK TO *ME* FOR AN *ANSWER.*

I AM THE *ONLY PERSON* IN THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE WHO *MIGHT* BE ABLE TO *PROVIDE* IT.

BECAUSE I NOW HOLD THE *POWER* OF THE *INFINITY GEMS* WITHIN MY GRASP.

WITH THEM IN HAND, I HAVE BECOME THE *MASTER* OF ALL *REALITY!*

YOU MUST COME TO LEARN TO *ACCEPT* THESE *TRUTHS*, MY CHILDREN.

FOR NOW *NOTHING* IS BEYOND THE SCOPE OF *POSSIBILITY*.

ALL THE *COSMOS* IS *MINE* TO DO WITH AS I WISH!

BECAUSE I NOW HOLD THE *POWER* OF THE *INFINITY GEMS* WITHIN MY GRASP.

WITH THEM IN HAND, I HAVE BECOME THE *MASTER* OF ALL *POWER!!*

NOW DO YOU COMPREHEND THE *NEW WAY* OF THE UNIVERSE, SURFER?

THE THANOS YOU *ONCE* KNEW IS *GONE*. BEFORE YOU STANDS THE *INFINITE!*

EMPTY *BOASTS* FROM THE LIPS OF A *MADMAN!*

NOT AT ALL. NOT WITH THESE *BEAUTIES* IN MY POSSESSION.

BEAUTIES?

THESE BEAUTIES! DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE THEM?

THE SOUL GEMS?!

I PREFER TO CALL THEM THE *INFINITY GEMS.*

NO!

NO! I CANNOT ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN!

SO AT LAST YOU GRASP THE *TRUE GRAVITY* OF THE SITUATION, SURFER.

NOT THAT THERE IS *ANYTHING* YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT.

YOU ARE *POWERLESS* TO BLOCK EVEN MY *SLIGHTEST WHIM.*

FOR I AM *TRANSFORMED!* I HAVE LEFT THE *MORTAL PLANE* BEHIND ME!

IN TRUTH I HAVE RISEN ABOVE THE *MANTLE* OF *GODHOOD!*

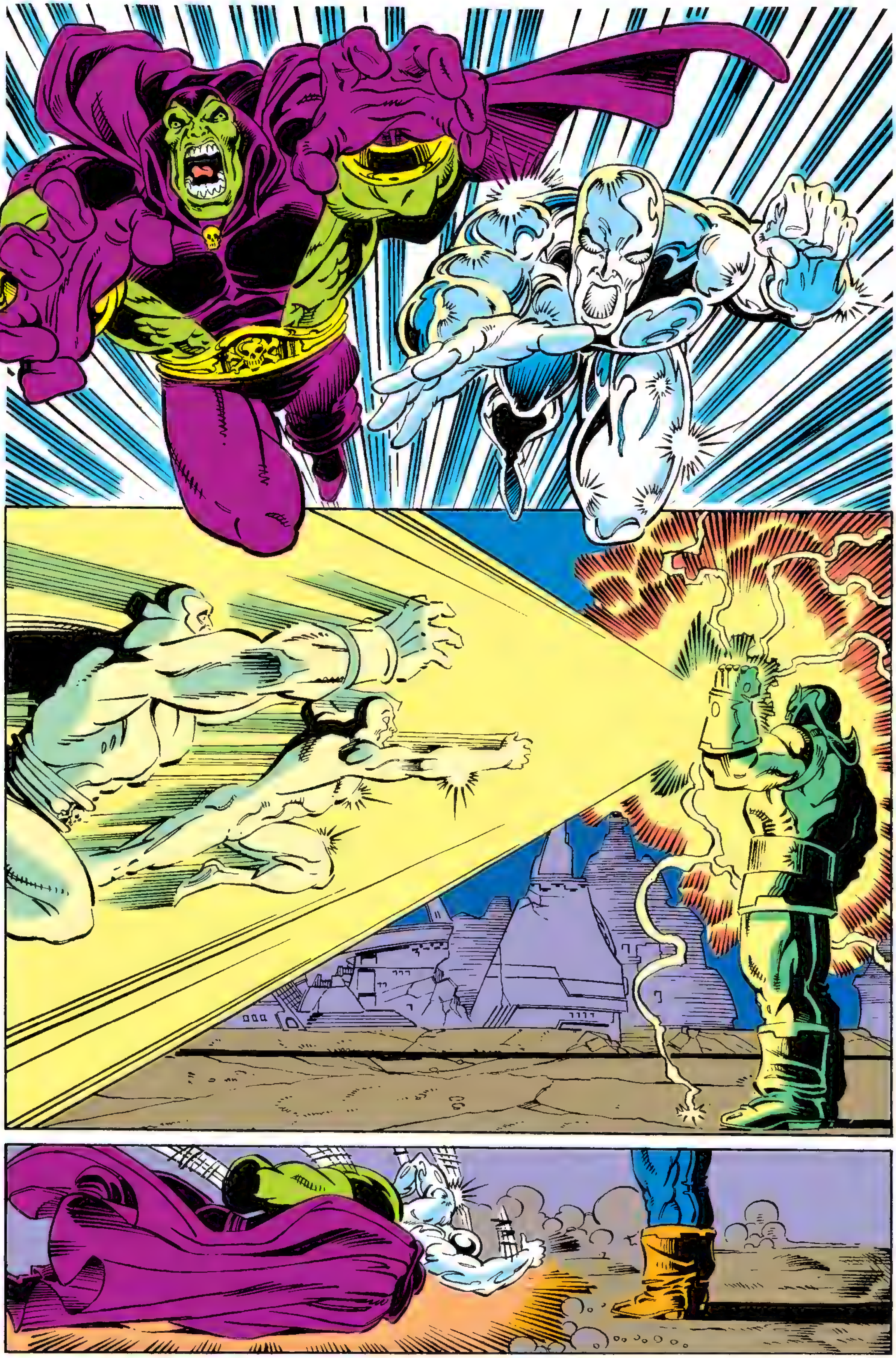
EVEN *CELESTIAL STATUS* IS NOW BELOW ME!

THE *INFINITY GEMS* HAVE GIVEN ME THE *POWER* OF *SUPREME BEING!*

I WANTED YOU TO KNOW *THIS*, SURFER!

IT WAS *IMPORTANT* THAT YOU REALIZE *WHO* WILL CONTROL THE *DESTINY* OF THE *UNIVERSE*...

...LONG EONS AFTER *YOU* HAVE *LEFT IT!*



MINE *ENEMIES* LIE BEFORE ME PROSTRATE AND HELPLESS, THEIR *SOULS* STOLEN FROM THEM.

THANOS IS ALL *POWERFUL!*

THANOS IS *INVINCIBLE!*

THANOS IS *SUPREME!*

NOW *NONE* DARE CHALLENGE *GOD'S MIGHT!*

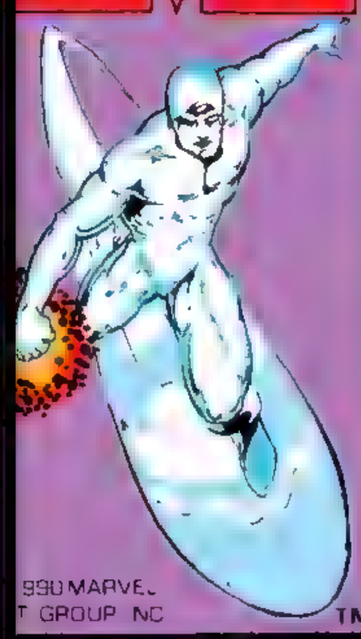
"NONE?

"IF YOU BELIEVE THAT, GREAT THANOS, BEST NOT TO LOOK TOWARD FIERY HADES.

FOR CUNNING *MEPHISTO* WOULD DARE *ANYTHING* TO GAIN THE POWER OF THE *INFINITY GEMS!*

NEXT: THANOS vs. MEPHISTO!!

MARVEL® COMICS



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THE SILVER SURFER®

THE BOYS ARE BACK!

Stan Lee presents

THANOS VS Mephisto

I AM THANOS.

THE INFINITY GEMS HAVE MADE ME THE MASTER OF TIME, SPACE, THE MIND, THE SOUL, REALITY AND POWER.

AND NOW THE LAST OF MY GREAT ENEMIES HAVE FALLEN.

THE DESTROYER AND THE SILVER SURFER WILL NEVER AGAIN BE A THREAT TO ME.

JIM STARLIN · RON LIM · TOM CHRISTOPHER · KEN BRUZENAK · TOM VINCENT · CRAIG ANDERSON · TOM DeFALCO
WRITER PENCILER INKER LETTERER COLORIST EDITOR CHIEF

I HAVE STOLEN THEIR *SOULS* AND IMPRISONED THEM WITHIN THE *SOUL GEM!*

THE SAME SOUL GEM *ADAM WARLOCK* ONCE WIELDED.

IT IS A DOOM *NONE* HAS EVER RETURNED FROM.

FAR *BETTER* THAN *DEATH!*

AND SO I LEAVE THESE *EMPTY HUSKS* TO ROT BENEATH AN ALIEN STAR.

THANOS HAS OTHER, *MORE PRESSING* MATTERS TO ATTEND TO.

THE FIRST OF WHICH IS A STOP AT MY FLAGSHIP, THE *SANCTUARY III.*

THEN THAT, TOO, IS *MEPHISTO'S* DESTINATION.

FOR WHERE THE *INFINITY GEMS* GO, THERE *I* SHALL FOLLOW.

BECAUSE THIS DEMON'S *HUNGER* FOR *POWER* IS NEVER SATED.

SANCTUARY III.

ITS CREW IS NOT EXPECTING MY ARRIVAL.

GREETINGS, CAPTAIN STYX.

THANOS?!

HOW GOES THE HOLY MISSION I ASSIGNED YOU?

SIR?

EXCELLENTLY, SIR!

WORD OF YOUR RETURN HAS SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE STARS.

EVERY MALCONTENT, PIRATE, MERC, NIHILIST, PSYCHOTIC AND RELIGIOUS ZEALOT IN THE GALAXY IS RUSHING TO JOIN YOUR FLOCK.

WE HAVE ALSO BEEN PRESSING INFIDELS INTO SERVICE.

WITH A LITTLE DISCIPLINARY REINFORCEMENT, THEY ALL SEEM TO BE WORKING OUT QUITE WELL.

"IN ADDITION, WE HAVE ACQUIRED AN *IMPRESSIVE FLEET OF WARSHIPS* AND SUPPORT VESSELS ALONG THE WAY.

"WE CAN EASILY TAKE ON MOST *INTERGALACTIC FORCES*, AND NO *PLANETARY DEFENSES* COULD STAND AGAINST US."

"EXCELLENT!

"THEY WILL SERVE WELL AS MY *PERSONAL GUARD.*"

BUT, SIR, I BELIEVE MANY IN THE ARMADA HOPED FOR MORE *ACTIVE DUTY.*

LIKE *PLUNDERING* SOME *HELPLESS* PLANET, I IMAGINE?

LET THEM BE *SATISFIED* WITH *THIS!*

THEY ARE TO BE MY CEREMONIAL *BODY-GUARD.* AND CAPTAIN...

...*NEVER* AGAIN *QUESTION* ONE OF MY DECISIONS.

YES SIR.

SEE TO IT THAT THE *BOUNTY* IS FAIRLY DIVIDED AMONG MY FOLLOWERS.

THEN WE SHALL...

HUH?

WHAT?

CAPTAIN STYX, DO YOU KNOW THAT YOU HAVE A *STOWAWAY* ON BOARD?

THAT CAN'T BE.

I MEAN...

HOW?

ALLOW ME TO *ILLUSTRATE* THE POINT, CAPTAIN.

BEHOLD!

BO'S'N MANTRAX!

HE'S A SANCTUARY III CREW MEMBER.

BUT WHO'S THAT WITH HIM?

ONE I THOUGHT *DEAD.*

MY LOVING "GRANDDAUGHTER" AND THE FORMER MISTRESS OF THIS VESSEL, *NEBULA.*

HOW?

RETURNING FROM BEYOND THE *GREAT DIVIDE* SEEMS TO BE A *FAMILY TRAIT.*

BUT I WOULD LIKE FURTHER *PARTICULARS* ON THIS MATTER

SPEAK, BO'S'N MANTRAX!

THE VESSEL'S COMPUTERIZED *FIRE CONTROL* EXTINGUISHED THE FLAMES THAT ENGULFED NEBULA.

AND THEN *YOU* HID HER DOWN HERE TO RECUPERATE?

YES, SIR, BUT I FEAR IT WAS A *FUTILE GESTURE.*

MY *MEDICAL SKILLS* WEREN'T UP TO THE JOB.

SHE'S *DYING.*

YES, I SENSE HER *IMMINENT DEMISE.*

SHE'S IN SUCH BAD SHAPE, IT'LL BE A *BLESSING.*

I BELIEVE SHE WAS SEVERELY *BRAIN DAMAGED* IN THE BLAZE.

YES, SHE IS A *PATHETIC CREATURE* INDEED.

SHE LINGERS ON A THIN LINE BETWEEN *LIFE* AND *DEATH.*

IN ITS OWN WAY, IT'S A VERY *LOVELY* AND *UNIQUE* STATE.

A SAMPLE OF A MOST *EPHEMERAL ART.*

FORTUNATELY, THANOS HAS THE POWER TO PRESERVE SUCH BEAUTY!

GRANDDAUGHTER NEBULA, KNOW YOU THAT I HAVE *IMMORTALIZED* YOU FOR *POSTERITY!*

YOU SHALL *LIVE* AS LONG AS I *WISH* YOU TO DO SO!

ART YOU NOW BE: A MONUMENT TO THE *INSANITY* OF *LIFE* AND *DEATH DENIED!*

BUT AS FOR *YOU...*

SHE WAS MY CAPTAIN, SIR...

I ADMIRE *LOYALTY* IN A SUBSERVIENT.

BUT ONLY IF IT IS AN *UNCONDITIONAL* LOYALTY TO *ME.*

A FIERY *DISMISSAL.*

YOU AND I, THANOS, ARE OBVIOUSLY *BEINGS* OF A *LIKE BENT.*

I DO NOT THINK SO, MEPHISTO.

YOU KNOW ME? I AM IMPRESSED.

I AM THE POSSESSOR OF THE INFINITY GEMS.

I KNOW ALL THERE IS TO KNOW.

NO, NOT ALL, LORD THANOS.

CAPTAIN, YOU WILL FIND NEBULA SUITABLE QUARTERS WHILE I ATTEND TO OUR UNWELCOME GUEST.

YES, SIR.

NOW, MEPHISTO, WHAT MEANT YOU BY "NOT ALL"?

ONLY THAT THERE ARE STILL *SECRETS* WITHIN THIS UNIVERSE THAT *YOU* ARE UNAWARE OF.

SUCH AS THE FACT THAT THE *INFINITY GEMS* AND *I* ONCE HAD AN INTIMATE ASSOCIATION.

TELL ME OF IT, *DEVIL*.

AND TELL ME *QUICKLY*.

AS YOU KNOW, THE *GEMS* WERE ONCE AN *OMNIPOTENT BEING* THAT WAS ALL THAT *WAS* THROUGHOUT INFINITY.

IT WAS AN EXISTENCE *IT* FOUND UNBEARABLY *LONELY* AND *FUTILE*.

WHICH IS WHY IT EVENTUALLY COMMITTED A FORM OF *COSMIC SUICIDE*.

BUT BEFORE IT OPTED FOR THAT DRASTIC SOLUTION, *IT* ATTEMPTED TO ALLEVIATE ITS SOLITUDE IN *ANOTHER FASHION*.

THIS *BEING* CREATED *ME* AND *MY KIND*.

"YOU SEE, THIS *GREAT ENTITY* HAD NO CONCEPT OF *GOOD* OR *EVIL*.

"*IT* MERELY TOOK A *PART* OF ITSELF AND GAVE IT *INDEPENDENT LIFE*.

"BECAUSE IT DIDN'T WILL US TO BE *GOOD*, WE TURNED OUT *EVIL*!"

"OF COURSE THE *DEMON HORDES* DISPLEASED OUR *CREATOR.*

"SO, BEING THE *SIMPLE-MINDED ENTITY* THAT HE WAS, HE CHOSE TO *DESTROY* US RATHER THAN BOTHER WITH *MODEST MODIFICATIONS.*"

BUT THIS DESTRUCTION, I PRESUME, WASN'T A *PERMANENT CONDITION?*

NO, WHEN *HIS* EXISTENCE *SELF-DESTRUCTED,* IT WAS THE *BIRTH* OF ALL THAT EXISTS *TODAY.*

I AND MY DEMON BRETHREN WERE REBORN AMIDST THIS *RENAISSANCE.*

TO THE SORROW OF ALL SENTIENT LIFE.

NATURALLY.

OVER THE EONS, WERE YOU AWARE OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE *INFINITY GEMS*?

VAGUELY.

HAH!

THAT LONG-DEAD *ENTITY* TRULY WAS *INFINITELY WISE*, WAS HE NOT?

EVEN IN *DEATH* HE SAW TO IT THAT HIS *SOUL* WAS RECAST INTO A *FORM* YOUR KIND COULD *NOT SENSE*.

HE DIDN'T WANT HIS *POWER* TO FALL INTO YOUR *FOUL HANDS*.

APPARENTLY.

SO *WHY* HAVE YOU PRESENTLY CHOSEN TO SEEK ME OUT, DEMON?

BECAUSE I HAVE *TRAITS* NOT SHARED WITH MY *DEMON BROTHERS*.

I APPRECIATE *FACETS* OF *EXISTENCE* THEY DO NOT.

SUCH AS?

MY LOVE OF *DISCIPLINED POWER* ABOVE ALL ELSE.

THIS *ADMIRATION* OVERRIDES EVEN MY NATURAL BENT TOWARD *PERSONAL GAIN*.

MEANING?

MEPHISTO HAS COME TO BE THANOS'S FIRST *TRUE BELIEVER!*

I *PETITION* YOU TO ALLOW ME TO BE YOUR *NEOPHYTE!*

MY SOLE WISH IS TO *SERVE* YOU IN *ANY* AND *ALL* WAYS!

REALLY?

UNFORTUNATELY FOR *YOU*, THANOS NO LONGER HAS ANY *NEED* FOR *LACKEYS.*

EVEN IF THAT *LACKEY* COULD SHOW YOU NEVER-BEFORE-DREAMT-OF *USES* FOR THE *INFINITY GEMS?*

I WITNESSED FIRSTHAND THE GREAT ONE UTILIZING ITS MIGHT, FELT IT USED AGAINST ME!

HE HAD ASPECTS ABOUT HIM EVEN THE FINEST MIND COULD NOT CONCEIVE.

HE WIELDED HIS MIGHT IN FASHIONS YOU COULD NEVER FATHOM.

IN TIME, I WILL.

NEVER!

THE LIMITS OF YOUR EXISTENCE STUNT THE BOUNDARIES OF YOUR IMAGINATION!

THANOS'S IMAGINATION IS AN AWESOME THING.

IS IT?

HAVE YOU EVER USED THE POWER TO REACH OUT AND TOUCH THE UNIVERSE?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

THIS REALITY, AND EVERYTHING IN IT, NOW BELONGS TO YOU.

BUT WHAT DO YOU TRULY KNOW OF IT?

ALL I NEED KNOW.

WHICH IS NEXT TO NOTHING!

YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO JOIN WITH EVERY MIND AND SOUL IN THE UNIVERSE!

YOU HAVE THE POWER AND CAPACITY TO PEEK AT THE THOUGHTS, DREAMS, AND ASPIRATIONS OF EVERY LIVING ENTITY!

THE GEMS OF POWER, MIND AND SOUL ALLOW YOU ACCESS TO THIS UNLIMITED KNOWLEDGE!

HOW CAN YOU IGNORE SUCH A TREASURE?

I CAN'T.

NOR HAVE I, ADMITTEDLY, EVER *THOUGHT* OF ATTEMPTING SUCH AN *ALL-ENCOMPASSING FEAT.*

AND *BEYOND.*

IMAGINE.

TO TOUCH EVERY SOUL WITHIN THE GALAXY.

CAN IT TRULY BE POSSIBLE?

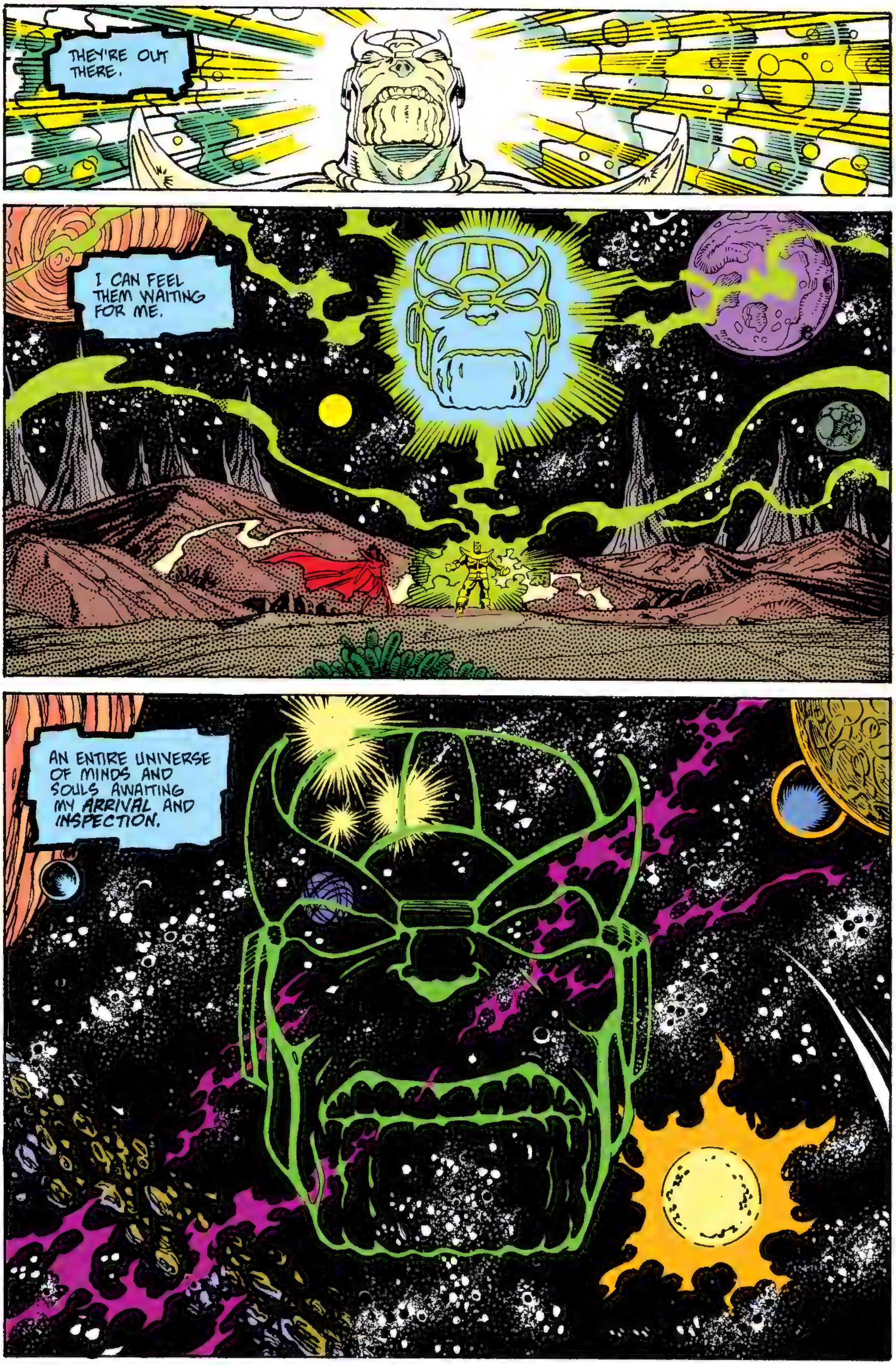
YES!

YOU NEED ONLY FOCUS YOUR *INNER SELF* THROUGH THE GEMS AND *REACH OUT....*

WHO COULD RESIST SUCH INTELLECTUAL AND SPIRITUAL *STIMULATION?*

NOT I.

Mmm...


THEY'RE OUT THERE.
I CAN FEEL THEM WAITING FOR ME.
AN ENTIRE UNIVERSE OF MINDS AND SOULS AWAITING MY ARRIVAL AND INSPECTION.

IT'S ALMOST *MORE* THAN *ONE MIND* CAN HANDLE.

ALMOST, BUT NOT *QUITE*.

FOR I AM *THANOS!*

AND I HAVE A *TASTE* FOR ALIEN *CONCEPTS* AND MIND-BOGGLING *EXPERIENCES.*

HE ACTUALLY DID IT!

THANOS IS IN *RAPPORT* WITH EVERY *SOUL* IN EXISTENCE.

AN *AMAZING* IF NOT A VERY *JUDICIOUS* FEAT.

A FIRST-RATE *DEITY* REALLY SHOULDN'T LEAVE HIS *BODY* LOUNGING ABOUT WITH ONLY ONE LONE *DEMON* GUARDING IT.

THE DEED LEAVES THANOS *LOST* TO THIS *REALITY*.

VULNERABLE TO *TREACHERY*.

SUSCEPTIBLE TO *THIEVERY*!

OPEN TO THE *LOSS* OF ONE'S *GODHOOD*!

THAT IS AN INDISCRETION *MIGHTY MEPHISTO* WILL NEVER FALL PREY TO.

BY THE GREAT ONE!

THE GAUNTLET SEEKS TO STRANGLE THE LIFE FROM ME!

AND IT'S SUCCEEDING!!

BUT THIS CANNOT BE!

MEPHISTO IS NOT VULNERABLE TO THE PHYSICAL!

THEN THERE MUST BE SOMETHING METAPHYSICAL IN THIS ASSAULT!

I MUST BREAK FREE OR PERISH!

EVEN IF IT MEANS DESTROYING THE INFINITY GAUNTLET!

WHAT GOOD IS LIMITLESS POWER IF ONE DIES GAINING IT?

"SO LET THE FIRE OF HADES BURN AWAY THIS ABOMINATION FROM MY THROAT!

"FOR NOTHING CAN RESIST THIS CLEANSING FLAME!

"NOTHING!"

NOTHING?

"DID YOU TRULY BELIEVE I COULD BE SO *EASILY DUPED*, DEMON?"

DID YOU THINK I WOULD ACTUALLY LEAVE MY *PERSON* AND *STATUS* VULNERABLE TO YOUR *WILES* WHILE I WAS *PREOCCUPIED* WITH YOUR CHALLENGE?

I AM NOBODY'S FOOL.

I AM *THANOS!*

I AM *SUPREME!*

I WAS... MERELY TRYING... TO ASCERTAIN... WHETHER...

...YOU WERE... REALLY WORTHY... OF SUCH POWER... AND DEVOTION...

AND AM I?

MOST DEFINITELY

I WOULD... STILL BE... HONORED TO BE ...YOUR ACOLYTE...

I COULD NEVER TRUST YOU, DEMON.

A VERY SPECIAL DEITY ...SUCH AS YOURSELF... DESERVES VERY ...SPECIAL... FOLLOWERS...

I COULD USE THE MIND AND SOUL GEMS TO MAKE A MORE FAITHFUL DEVOTEE OF YOU.

BUT THEN YOU WOULD LOSE THE UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE AND PERSONALITY I BRING TO YOUR CAUSE.

BESIDES WHICH, I AM OBVIOUSLY NOTHING WHEN COMPARED AGAINST YOUR MIGHT.

YOU HAVE NO REASON TO FEAR ME.

TRUE, AND YOU MAY PROVE AMUSING TO HAVE ABOUT.

THEN YOU WILL ALLOW ME TO SERVE YOU, AND ONLY YOU?

YES.

HOW MAN I DO SO, MASTER?

HAVE YOU ENEMIES THAT NEED DISPATCHING?

NONE I NEED WORRY ABOUT.

FOR I HAVE BEEN TO THE EDGE OF REALITY AND BACK AGAIN.

THE BIRTH OF A MILLION TOMORROWS DWELLS WITHIN MY HANDS AND HEART.

I HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR.

PERHAPS.

PERHAPS NOT.

YOU TRULY HAVE ACQUIRED BOUNDLESS POWER, TITAN.

BUT YOU'VE CHOSEN TO HOUSE IT WITHIN A FINITE BODY AND...

...DIRECT IT WITH A MIND THAT ONLY IMAGINES IT UNDERSTANDS THE INTRICACIES OF THE ETERNAL.

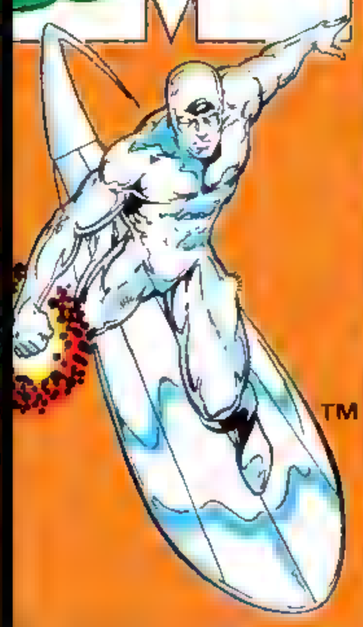
YOU HAVE YET TO REALIZE THE PHYSICAL MUST BE ABANDONED IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE TRUE SUPREMACY.

THE FLESH IS PREY TO TOO MANY ILLS.

THIS IS A DISADVANTAGE UNDOUBTEDLY SOME CLEVER FOE WILL SOMEDAY USE AGAINST YOU.

NEXT:
THE SOUL WORLD!

MARVEL® COMICS



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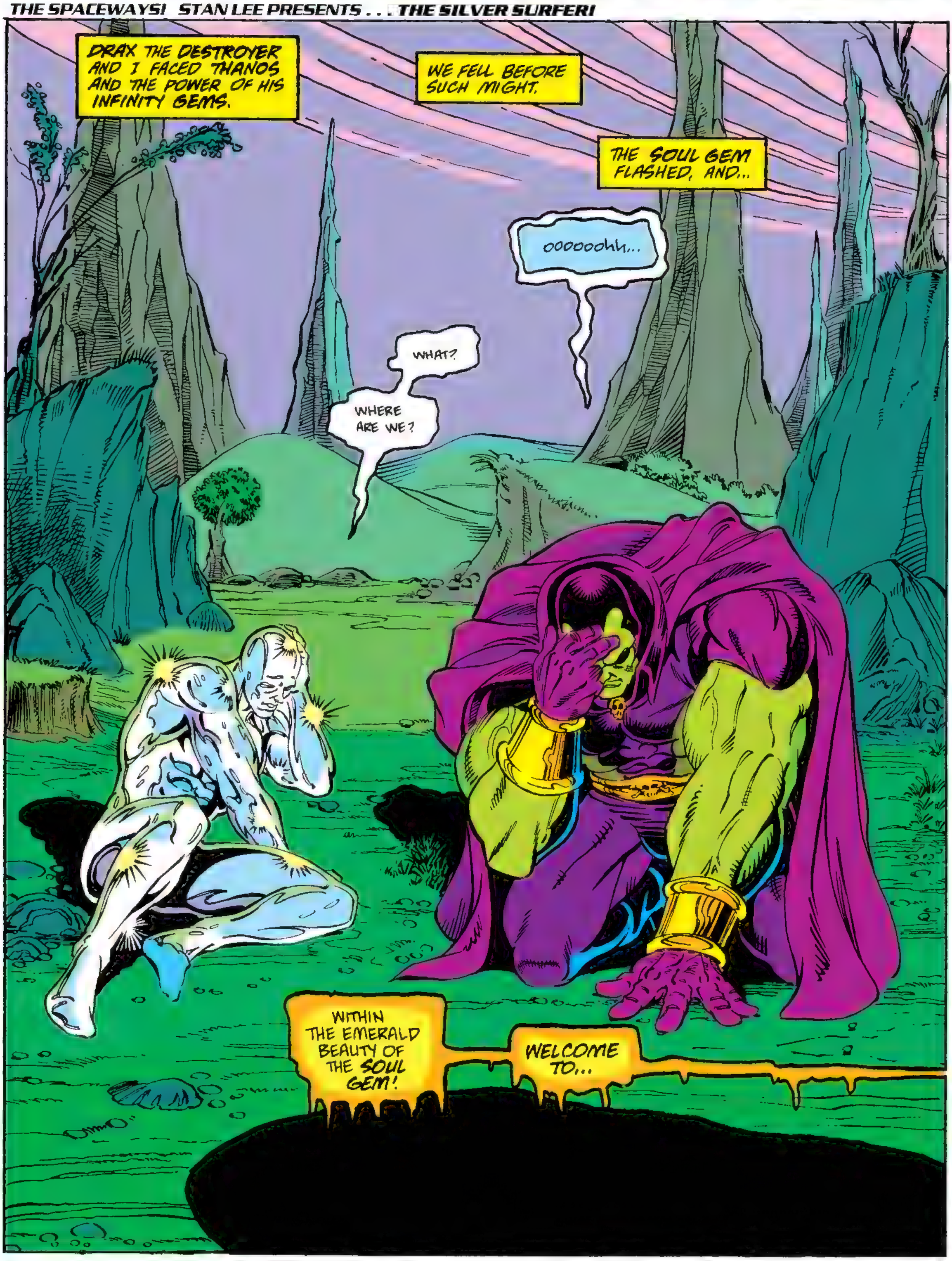
THE SILVER SURFER®

FEATURING THE RETURN OF ADAM WARLOCK™

50 YEARS OF CAPTAIN AMERICA
1941 – 1991

TO SAVE HIS PLANET, **NORRIN RADD** SURRENDERED HIS FREEDOM TO BECOME HERALD TO THE WORLD-DEVOURING **GALACTUS**. COATED WITH GALACTIC GLAZE, GIVEN A SURFBOARD OBEYING HIS MENTAL COMMANDS, AND GRANTED THE POWER COSMIC, HE NOW SOARS THE UNIVERSE A SHINING SENTINEL OF THE SPACEWAYS! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . . **THE SILVER SURFER!**



...THE SOUL WORLD!

NOW I REMEMBER!

THANOS USED THE GEM TO *STEAL* OUR *SOULS* FROM OUR BODIES!

THANOS!

TELL ME WHERE THANOS IS!

TELL ME *NOW!*

I KNOW NOT OF WHOM YOU SPEAK.

LIES!

JIM STARLIN · RON LIM · TOM CHRISTOPHER
WRITER · PENCILER · INKER

KEN BRUZENAK · TOM VINCENT · CRAIG ANDERSON · TOM DeFALCO
LETTERER · COLORIST · EDITOR · CHIEF

YOU WILL TELL DESTROYER THE TRUTH OR SUFFER!

DESTROYER SENSES NEARNESS OF HIS ENEMY, THANOS!

HE FEELS IT ON YOU!

HE SENSES IT EVERYWHERE!

BUT I ASSURE YOU, I DON'T AAACCKK!

DRAX, WAIT!

YOU LIE TO DESTROYER, YOU DIE!

DRAX, STOP!

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!

WHY DID YOU DO THAT TO JUDGE KRAY-TOR?

BECAUSE I FELT THIS CREATURE HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THANOS!

I FEEL THANOS EVERY-WHERE I LOOK!

DRAX, THAT'S BECAUSE THE TITAN USED THE SOUL GEM TO ENTRAP OUR SPIRITUAL SELVES.

OUR SOULS ARE NOW IMPRISONED IN A JEWEL ON THE BACK OF THANOS'S HAND.

YOU SENSE THANOS BECAUSE HE NOW STANDS ONLY A BREATH AND AN INFINITY AWAY.

DESTROYER DON'T UNDERSTAND.

WHAT I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU IS THAT WE NOW STAND ON SOULWORLD, WHICH IS PART OF THANOS AND HIS POWER.

WE ARE PRISONERS INSIDE THE SOUL GEM!

WORLD IN GEM?

YES... DESTROYER UNDERSTANDS.

BUT THAT LEAVES DRAX ONLY ONE WAY TO GET TO THANOS.

DRAX MUST DESTROY THIS WORLD!

GOT NO OTHER CHOICE.

WHAT!

WAIT, DRAX! YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN TO REASON!

DESTROYER LISTEN TO YOU ENOUGH ALREADY!

WHAT YOU'RE PROPOSING TO DO IS WRONG AND INSANE!

YOU JUST CAN'T GO AROUND--

AARRRGHH!

NO MORE LISTENING!

BY THE STARS! THAT BLOW REALLY HURT!

HAS THE DESTROYER'S STRENGTH INCREASED SINCE COMING TO THIS WORLD?

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT.

I AM TRULY SORRY, DRAX.

I DIDN'T WISH TO HANDLE THIS SITUATION IN SUCH A BRUTAL FASHION!

BUT...

...YOU DIDN'T EVEN FEEL THAT BLOW!

DESTROYER MUST BE OFF.

TIME TO SMASH THIS WORLD!

DRAX, DON'T!

DON'T FORCE ME TO USE MY...

...MY COSMIC POWERS ON YOU!

THEY'RE NOT WORKING!

ONCE AGAIN MY *POWERS* HAVE *ABANDONED* ME.

I CAN'T EVEN SUMMON MY *SURF-BOARD.*

WHY?

BECAUSE YOU ARE NOW IN THE *SOULWORLD!*

YOUR COSMIC POWERS WERE PART OF YOUR *PHYSICAL SELF* AND WERE NOT TRANSFERRED HERE.

YOU ARE NOW THE *EMBODI-MENT OF SPIRIT,* EVEN THOUGH YOU PERCEIVE YOURSELF STILL *HOUSED* WITHIN A *BODY.*

THE DEFENDANT IS OUT OF ORDER...

BUT... BUT... BUT...

HOW IS IT THAT *DRAX* STILL RETAINS HIS MIGHTY POWERS?

HE *DOESN'T.* BUT DRAX'S SOUL IS TREMENDOUSLY *FOCUSED* ON *ONE GOAL,* AND IT'S EXTREMELY *POWER-FUL,* ONE OF THE MIGHTIEST I'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED.

THAT MAKES HIM AN *AWESOMELY POWERFUL* ENTITY WITHIN THE SOULWORLD.

AMAZING! BUT, GAMORA, WHY DON'T I... I... I...

HUH? GAMORA? JUDGE KRAY-TOR?

HOW IS IT THAT I KNOW YOUR NAMES?

AND I'M *PIP!* YOU'RE IN SOULWORLD NOW, PAL. *EVERYONE* HERE IS IN *HARMONY* WITH EACH OTHER, KNOWS ALL ABOUT EACH OTHER.

EXCEPT FOR THE DESTROYER.

THAT'S BECAUSE HE IS A *DANGEROUS BEING.* HE SUFFERED *BRAIN DEATH* IN A PAST LIFE, DIDN'T HE?

YES. BUT WHY IS IT THAT *I DON'T KNOW* ALL THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT *THIS WORLD?*

YOU WILL. IT TAKES TIME TO FULLY ADJUST TO THIS NEW PLANE OF EXISTENCE.

WE'LL BE GLAD TO ANSWER YOUR *QUESTIONS* UNTIL YOU *SETTLE* IN PROPERLY.

THOUGH IT MAY TAKE YOU *LONGER* THAN MOST; THERE'S SOMETHING TERRIBLY *WRONG* WITH YOUR *AURA.*

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

THERE APPEARS TO BE A *DISALIGNMENT* WITHIN YOUR *INNER SELF.*

YOU'RE *NOT* COMPLETELY IN *SYNC* WITH YOUR *SPIRIT.*

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

I'VE ALWAYS FELT QUITE AT *PEACE* WITH MYSELF.

BUT ON THIS WORLD, STANDING BEFORE THESE BEINGS, THAT BOAST HAS A *HOLLOW RING* TO IT.

I BEGIN TO WONDER. BUT THEN I REALIZE I HAVEN'T THE *TIME* FOR SUCH *FOOLISH GAMES.*

DRAX'S STILL RUNNING LOOSE, *OUT OF CONTROL* AND *DANGEROUS.*

YES, HE WISHES TO *DESTROY* SOULWORLD AND POSSESSES THE SHEER *POWER* TO CARRY OFF THAT THREAT.

YOU ALREADY KNOW OF *THIS?*

THIS ONE'S KIND OF *SLOW* ON THE *UPTAKE,* AIN'T HE?

EVERYONE KNOWS WHAT'S GOING ON IN SOULWORLD AT ALL TIMES.

FORTUNATELY FOR US, WE HAVE A *DEFINITE ADVANTAGE* WORKING FOR US IN THIS SITUATION.

THE DESTROYER'S *MENTAL FACILITIES* ARE TERRIBLY FOGGED.

IT WILL TAKE HIM A WHILE TO FIGURE *HOW* TO ACCOMPLISH HIS *DESIRED GOAL*.

IN OTHER WORDS, HE'S EVEN *THICKER* THAN OL' *CHROMEDOME* HERE.

"EXACTLY."

THIS WILL GIVE US THE *TIME* NEEDED TO REACH THE *ONE MAN* WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO *HANDLE* THE DESTROYER.

YOU HAVE SUCH A PERSON?

YES, HE HAS A *CLEAR* AND *WELL DEVELOPED* SOUL.

UNFORTUNATELY, HE'S GOING TO BE A BIT *DIFFICULT* TO REACH AT PRESENT.

BUT REACH HIM WE MUST; YOUR WORLD IS IN *MORTAL DANGER*.

WHERE CAN WE FIND THIS *HERO* OF YOURS?

UP THERE.

"ADAM GOES TO THIS SUMMIT EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE TO *MEDITATE* OR SOMETHIN'.

"WHEN HE DOES THIS HE *LOSES CONTACT* WITH THE REST OF THE COMMUNITY, *ZOMBIES OUT.*

"THE BIG GALOOT BECOMES *LOST* TO THE WORLD, FLOATING AROUND IN *THOUGHTS* ALL HIS *OWN.*"

SO THE ONLY WAY TO REACH HIM IS TO *CLIMB UP* AND *DRAG* HIS BUTT BACK DOWN TO EARTH.

YEAH. *ADAM WARLOCK.*

I'VE HEARD THAT NAME MENTIONED BEFORE.

CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT HIM, *AUTOLYCUS*?

TERRIFIC.

YOU SAID HIS NAME WAS ADAM?

GLADLY.

THE STORY GOES THAT ADAM WAS *BORN* ON A PLANET CALLED EARTH.

YOU'VE BEEN THERE, HAVEN'T YOU?

"THIS GROUP OF EARTH *SCIENTISTS* FORMED A SECRET COMMUNITY CALLED *THE HIVE*, ITS OBJECTIVE TO CREATE *ARTIFICIAL LIFE*.

"ADAM WAS THE *END-PRODUCT* OF THEIR *RESEARCH*.

" NONE INVOLVED REALIZED WHAT A *POWERFUL BEING* HE'D TURN OUT TO BE.

"BUT ONCE THEY DID, THE SCIENTISTS *FEARED* HIS MIGHT AND SOUGHT TO ABORT HIS ENTRANCE INTO THE REALM OF THE *TRULY LIVING*.

"BUT ADAM *SURVIVED* THOSE ATTEMPTS ON HIS LIFE AND STEPPED INTO THE WORLD A *FULLY MATURED* AND *POWERFUL* MALE HUMANOID.

"PARENTLESS, FEARED AND ALONE, THE BEING KNOWN THEN ONLY AS *'HIM'* ABANDONED *EARTH* AND CLAIMED THE *STARS* AS HIS HOME.

"YEARS LATER, ADAM ENCOUNTERED ANOTHER *POWERFUL ENTITY* WHO WAS DESTINED TO BECOME WARLOCK'S *FATHER FIGURE* AND *MENTOR*.

"IT WAS FROM THIS BEING THAT ADAM RECEIVED HIS *NAME* AND THE *SOUL GEM* HE WIELDED FOR YEARS AFTER THAT.

"THIS MAN CALLED HIMSELF THE *HIGH EVOLUTIONARY*.

"BUT ADAM EVENTUALLY RETURNED TO THE STARS AND HAD MANY *ADVENTURES* AND *TRIALS* ALL HIS OWN.

"IT WAS DURING THIS PERIOD THAT I MET ADAM, *BATTLED* HIM AND FINALLY FELL *VICTIM* TO THE POWER OF HIS *SOUL GEM*.

"IT WAS THE *BEST THING* THAT EVER HAPPENED TO ME. LIKE ALL WHO COME TO SOULWORLD, I FOUND *PEACE* AND *CONTENTMENT* WITHIN THIS EMERALD REALM.

BUT ADAM EVENTUALLY HAD HIS *OWN SPIRIT* TAKEN INTO THE SOUL GEM?

YES, DURING A BATTLE WITH THE VILLAINOUS *THANOS*.

NOW I REMEMBER READING ABOUT HIM IN THE *AVENGERS'* FILES.

THEY SAY HE WAS A *HEROIC WARRIOR*.

BUT NO MORE. NOW HE LEADS THE SIMPLE LIFE OF A *MYSTIC* AND *PRIEST*.

HE IS THE CLOSEST THING TO A *HOLY MAN* SOULWORLD HAS.

AND HE IS THE UNANIMOUSLY *CHOSEN LEADER* OF SOULWORLD'S PEOPLE.

SUCH *HEAVY DUTIES* FORCE HIM TO OCCASIONALLY SEEK SOLITUDE IN ORDER TO CLEAR HIS *HEART* AND *THOUGHTS*.

HE PICKED A BAD TIME FOR A PURGE.

FEAR NOT. I'M SURE *GAMORA* WILL KEEP YOUR *VIOLENT FRIEND* OCCUPIED LONG ENOUGH FOR US TO REACH ADAM.

I'M NOT AT ALL SURE I LIKE ALLOWING THAT *WOMAN* TO TAKE ON DRAX ALL BY *HERSELF*.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT *LEAN, MEAN* AND *GREEN*.

BEFORE COMING TO SOULWORLD, GAMORA WAS KNOWN AS THE *MOST DANGEROUS GAL* IN THE GALAXY.

GOOD DAY, DRAX.

DOES DESTROYER KNOW YOU?

YOU ONCE MADE *SCRAP METAL* OF A SPACECRAFT I WAS FLYING.

I NEVER GOT THE CHANCE TO *THANK YOU* FOR THE EXPERIENCE.

ALLOW ME TO DO SO NOW!

WHAT?!

LITTLE WOMAN SHOULD NOT ATTACK DESTROYER!

HAVE I COMMITTED A FAUX PAS?

MY APOLOGIES.

DESTROYER DON'T BELIEVE YOU REALLY SORRY!

SO DESTROYER WILL SMASH YOU TO BITS AND PIECES!

"AND I'M NOT ABOUT TO LET THAT HAPPEN.

"NO, WE'RE JUST GOING TO KEEP YOU TOO MAD TO THINK STRAIGHT.

"WE DON'T WANT YOU PONDERING WAYS TO DESTROY THIS BEAUTIFUL GREEN PARADISE I CALL HOME.

"THE TRICK IS TO KEEP YOU COMPLETELY PREOCCUPIED UNTIL ADAM ARRIVES.

ONLY IF YOU CAN MANAGE TO SOMEHOW LAY THOSE MEAT HOOKS OF YOURS ON ME.

"THEN WE'LL SEE IF HE'S CAPABLE OF *DISSUADING* YOU FROM THOSE NASTY OL' *DESTRUCTIVE NOTIONS* OF YOURS."

HAVE WE REACHED THE SUMMIT?

ADAM, WE HAVE BROUGHT A *NEWCOMER* TO MEET YOU.

HE BRINGS WITH HIM A *GREAT PERIL* TO OUR WORLD.

WE ARE IN DIRE NEED OF YOUR *PROTECTION* AND *AID*.

WE HAVE ONCE YOU GET YOUR RUMP *UP* AND *OVER* THAT PRECIPICE.

SO YOU ARE THE *SILVER SURFER.*

IN MY *PAST LIFE* I HEARD MUCH ABOUT YOU.

IT WAS SAID THAT YOU ARE A *GOOD* AND *HONEST BEING.*

BUT I SEE THAT YOU ARE CURRENTLY HAVING TROUBLE WITH MY OLD *ALLY* AND *ENEMY, THANOS.*

YES, HE HAS BECOME A NEARLY *OMNIPOTENT ENTITY* BY HARVESTING THE POWER OF THE *INFINITY GEMS.*

THAT'S MOST DEFINITELY THANOS, ALWAYS SEEKING *ULTIMATE POWER.*

I'D HOPED HE WOULD HAVE *GOTTEN PAST* THAT *OBSESSION.*

IT SEEMS EVEN *DEATH* HAS NOT MANAGED TO *EVOLVE* HIS SPIRIT.

I KNOW.

AS I RECALL, YOU HAD QUITE A BIT TO DO WITH HIS *LAST DEFEAT.*

I PLAYED A PART IN IT.

AND, YES, I DO FEAR HE'LL REMEMBER THAT *INSULT* AND TURN HIS ATTENTIONS IN *OUR DIRECTION* ONCE HE'S HAD HIS WAY WITH *YOUR REALITY.*

BUT THE CURRENT PERIL WE MUST ATTEND TO IS YOUR *LARGE GREEN FRIEND.*

THEN YOU ALREADY KNOW ABOUT *DRAX?*

AND HOW TO DEAL WITH HIM.

SEVERELY.

DRAX *THREATENS* SOMETHING I VALUE ABOVE ALL ELSE.

MY WORLD.

I AM *ONE* WITH THIS REALITY.

I AM LINKED WITH EVERY *PLANT, ANIMAL* AND *PERSON* ON THIS PLANE.

TO ENDANGER THIS WORLD IS THE SUREST WAY TO GAIN MY *UNBRIDLED WRATH.*

THAT IS SOMETHING NO *INTELLIGENT BEING* SHOULD SEEK.

I'M NOT SURE INTELLIGENT IS AN *ADJECTIVE* EVER APPLIED TO DRAX.

HE IS A *UNIQUE SOUL;* BUT THEN AGAIN, SO ARE *YOU.*

HOW SO?

MY SENSES PERCEIVE THAT YOUR *SOUL* HAS BEEN *TAMPERED* WITH.

AS I WAS HAVING THAT SHATTERING REVELATION LAID ON ME, GAMORA WAS BUSY PLAYING CAT AND MOUSE WITH THE DESTROYER.

NOW, WHERE THAT SILLY WOMAN GO, AND WHAT SHE UP TO NOW?

JUST TRYING TO KNOCK A LITTLE SENSE INTO YOUR HEAD, BROTHER.

DESTROYER NOT YOUR BROTHER!

I WASN'T SPEAKING LITERALLY, HIGH TOP.

ANY WAY YOU SPEAK, YOU STILL NO RELATIVE OF DESTROYER!

NEVER MIND.

I NOW SEE CLEVER PATTER IS WASTED ON YOU.

SO I MIGHT AS WELL JUST CONCENTRATE ON KICKING YOUR TAIL AROUND A BIT.

SILLY WOMAN IS BEGINNING TO MAKE DESTROYER MAD!

SO DESTROYER WILL NOW CRUSH YOU!

"AND WITH A LITTLE LUCK, HE JUST MIGHT.

"ADAM, COME QUICKLY!

"I'M NOT SURE HOW MUCH LONGER I CAN HOLD THIS BEHEMOTH AT BAY."

JUST EXACTLY WHAT DO YOU MEAN, MY SOUL HAS BEEN TAMPERED WITH?

MY MYSTIC SENSES DETECT A RADICAL ALTERATION IN YOUR SPIRIT.

I BELIEVE THIS TAILORING TOOK PLACE DECADES AGO.

POSSIBLY WHEN YOU FIRST GAINED YOUR COSMIC POWERS.

GALACTUS.

THAT WOULD BE MY GUESS.

BUT THAT IS *ANOTHER PROBLEM* THAT MUST BE DEALT WITH AT A *LATER TIME.*

AT THE MOMENT, I MUST FOCUS MY ENERGIES ON *DETERRING* YOUR COMRADE FROM REDUCING SOULWORLD TO *SMOLDERING RUBBLE.*

DRAX DOES NOT EASILY *CHANGE HIS MIND* ONCE IT'S *SET.*

HOW DO YOU PLAN ON HANDLING HIM?

I WILL BEGIN BY *STEPPING OFF* THIS PRECIPICE.

HAVE YOU SEEN HIM *FLY* SINCE HE'S COME TO SOULWORLD?

NO!

"I DIDN'T THINK HE COULD *PULL* THAT *TRICK* OFF ANYMORE."

AND FROM THE LOOKS OF THINGS, I WAS RIGHT!

INSANITY.

BY ALL THAT IS HOLY, THIS CANNOT BE HAPPENING!

LET IT BE KNOWN; ADAM WARLOCK, THE WARRIOR, RETURNS!

ORAX THE DESTROYER, I AM COMING FOR YOU!

SO BE WITH US *NEXT ISSUE*, WHEN IT'S **WARLOCK** vs. **THE DESTROYER!**

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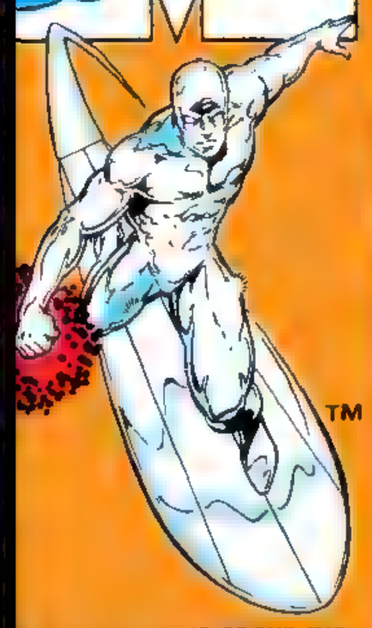

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THE SILVER SURFER

GUEST-STARRING

WARLOCK®

BUSTING LOOSE!

50 YEARS OF CAPTAIN AMERICA 1941 – 1991

TO SAVE HIS PLANET, *NORRIN RADD* SURRENDERED HIS FREEDOM TO BECOME HERALD TO THE WORLD-DEVOURING *GALACTUS*. COATED WITH GALACTIC GLAZE, GIVEN A SURFBOARD OBEYING HIS MENTAL COMMANDS, AND GRANTED THE POWER COSMIC, HE NOW SOARS THE UNIVERSE A SHINING SENTINEL OF THE SPACEWAYS! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . . *THE SILVER SURFER!*

AS PIP THE THE TROLL, AUTOLYCUS, AND I CLIMB DOWN A SHEER MOUNTAIN SPIRE, GAMORA FALLS VICTIM TO THE MIGHTY DRAX THE DESTROYER.

DRAX AND I CAME TO SOULWORLD WHEN EVIL THANOS USED THE INFINITY GEMS TO RIP OUR SPIRITS FREE FROM OUR PHYSICAL BODIES.

THE EMERALD BEHEMOTH THEN ERRONEOUSLY GOT IT INTO HIS HEAD THAT THE ONLY WAY TO ESCAPE THIS FATE WAS TO DESTROY THIS PEACEFUL AND BEAUTIFUL REALITY.

TO DETER DRAX FROM ACHIEVING HIS HORRENDOUS GOAL, I HAVE ENLISTED THE AID OF THIS WORLD'S MYSTERIOUS LEADER AND MYSTIC, ADAM WARLOCK.

BUT CAN EVEN HE HALT SUCH A DESTRUCTIVE JUGGERNALIT?

OR WILL HE, TOO, BE **CRUSHED** BENEATH THE DESTROYER'S **BLIND RAGE**?

THAT TAKES CARE OF *SILLY WOMAN.*

SHE SHOULD *NOT* HAVE *BOTHERED* DESTROYER.

DRAX NOT LIKE *NUISANCES!*

'SPECIALLY WHEN THEY KEEP ME FROM *THINKING.*

THINKING'S *HARD.*

NOW *WHAT* WAS DESTROYER THINKING ABOUT?

SOMETHING TO DO WITH *THIS WORLD.*

THAT'S *RIGHT!* DRAX WAS GOING TO DESTROY IT! *SMASH IT!*

BUT CAN'T REMEMBER WHY.

WHY NOT IMPORTANT. IF DESTROYER *DECIDE* WORLD MUST BE SMASHED, WORLD GETS *TOTALED.*

THAT'S THAT.

BUT WRECKING WORLD IS *BIG JOB.*

HOW DESTROYER GOING TO DO THAT?

MAYBE BREAK ONE PIECE AT A TIME?

NO, THAT TAKE TOO LONG.

NO, DESTROYER KNOWS WHAT MUST BE DONE!

DESTROYER MUST GET *HIGH!*

VERY HIGH.

THEN DESTROYER WILL COME DOWN *FAST!*

COME DOWN *HARD!*

HE MAKE FISTS *GLOW* AND BREAK WORLD IN *HALF!*

THAT WILL DO JOB.

DESTROYER CAN DO IT!

DESTROYER *KNOWS* HE CAN!

IT'S A *BAD IDEA*, DRAX.

HUH?

WHO SAY THAT?

Adam Warlock
PROTECTOR OF THE SOULWORLD!

ABANDON THIS *INSANE SCHEME*, DESTROYER, OR FACE MY *ANGER*!

SO YOU THIS WORLD'S *PROTECTOR*, EH?

DESTROYER GOT *BAD NEWS* FOR YOU.

HE ABOUT TO PUT YOU *OUT* OF WORK.

JIM STARLIN · RON LIM · TOM CHRISTOPHER
WRITER — PENCILER — INKER

KEN BRUZENAK · TOM VINCENT · CRAIG ANDERSON · TOM DeFALCO
LETTERER — COLORIST — EDITOR — CHIEF

I THINK NOT.

THEN DESTROYER FIX IT SO YOU *DON'T THINK* AT ALL!

MAKING ME YOUR *EQUAL*, BEHEMOTH?

NO THANK YOU.

I HAD HOPED TO DEAL WITH YOU IN A *RATIONAL MANNER*, DRAX.

BUT YOUR *ACTIONS* HAVE SHOWN ME THE *FOLLY* OF THAT NOTION.

NOW I SHALL...

...GET *SMASHED* BENEATH THE DESTROYER'S MIGHTY FISTS!

FROM MY VANTAGE POINT ON THE CLIFF, I SEE DRAX TEAR INTO THE GOLDEN WARRIOR.

MY HEART SINKS.

MY CHAMPION HAS PROVEN UNEQUAL TO THE TASK I SET HIM.

HE PLUMMETS TO EARTH, OBVIOUSLY UNCONSCIOUS.

WHERE GOLD MAN GO?

HE JUST DISAPPEAR!

ONLY HIS STICK STILL AROUND.

HOW HE DO THAT?

HIM JUST PLAIN NOWHERE AROUND.

GUESS IT DON'T MATTER; DRAX WIN JUST THE SAME.

SO DESTROYER GO BACK TO WORLD SMASHING.

NOT WHILE ADAM WARLOCK HAS ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT!

GOLD MAN IS AS ANNOYING AS SILLY WOMAN WAS!

DRAX MASH HER! DRAX DO SAME TO YOU!

BETTER YOUR RAGE BE VENTED ON *ME*, BRUTE, THAN DIRECTED AT THIS POOR *PEACEFUL WORLD*.

FIRST, DESTROYER SMASH *YOU*, THEN HE SMASH YOUR *WORLD*!

IS THERE *NOTHING* I CAN SAY TO DISCOURAGE YOU FROM THIS *MAD PLAN*?

NOTHING!

GOLD MAN DISAPPEAR AGAIN!

DON'T LIKE IT WHEN HE DOES THAT.

HE SHOULD STOP IT.

BUT HE MUST BE SOMEWHERE.

BUT WHERE?

HUH?

UH-OH.

DIRTY TRICK!!

HITTING DRAX FROM BEHIND IS COWARDLY THING TO DO.

DRAX SMASH YOU FOR THAT!

YOU WILL SMASH NOTHING THIS DAY, MONSTER!

DESIST THIS RASH ACTION BEFORE I AM FORCED INTO INJURING YOU!

NO ONE MAKES DESTROYER DO ANYTHING HE DON'T WANT TO DO!

DRAX CRUSHES ANYONE WHO THINKS DIFFERENTLY.

OR THINKS AT ALL?

A TERRIFIC PHILOSOPHY.

HUH?

HEY!

WHERE LIGHT GO?

OH, DESTROYER SEE NOW.

IT NOTHING BUT 'NOTHER *STUPID TRICK* BY GOLD MAN.

AND GOLD MAN *DISAPPEARED* AGAIN.

DESTROYER *KNEW* HE'D BE GONE.

THIS IS *NO WAY* TO FIGHT, GOLD MAN!

IT'S NOT FAIR!

COME OUT, GOLD MAN, SO DESTROYER CAN *PUNCH* AND *KICK* YOU!

NOT IF I CAN GET A SLEEPER HOLD ON YOU FIRST!

MORE CHEATING!

STUPID GOLD MAN!

DESTROYER NOT GETTING SLEEPY!

NOW DESTROYER TEAR YOU TO PIECES!

ONE CAN'T RIP ANYONE ASUNDER IF ONE CAN'T REACH HIS INTENDED VICTIM.

THEN DESTROYER WILL CRUSH!

GOLD MAN LET GO OFF DESTROYER!

GETTING HARD TO BREATHE!

THEN I SUGGEST YOU FALL DOWN AND TAKE A NAP!

NO! DESTROYER WILL FLY!

DESTROYER WILL SHAKE OFF ANNOYING GOLD MAN!

NEVER!

DESTROYER WILL...

...WILL...

...WILL...

...WILL FALL TO EARTH, DEFEATED.

BEATEN BECAUSE THE DESTROYER'S *LIMITED MIND* COULD NOT ACCEPT THE FACT THAT HE WAS NOW IN THE *SOULWORLD* AND NOT CONNECTED TO HIS *PHYSICAL BODY.*

DRAX DIDN'T REALIZE THAT HE NO LONGER HAD A *NEED* TO *BREATHE.*

LIKE EVERYONE IN THIS REALITY, HE IS A *SPIRITUAL EMBODIMENT.*

A *GIANT* DEFEATED BY A SUBTLE *VERBAL SUGGESTION.*

THANK THE STARS.

YOU WON, GOLDILOCKS!

NEITHER WAS I.

I WASN'T SURE *BESTING* THE DESTROYER IN *PERSONAL COMBAT* WAS POSSIBLE.

HE WAS TRULY A *MIGHTY* AND *VALIANT ENEMY*, DESPITE HIS MISGUIDED INTENTIONS.

INDEED. I TAKE *NO PLEASURE* IN HIS HUMILIATION.

BUT HE IS NOT THE *LAST MENACE* WHO MUST TASTE THE *DREGS* OF *DEFEAT*.

YOU ARE, OF COURSE, REFERRING TO *THANOS*.

MOST *DEFINITELY*. I MUST RETURN TO *MY REALITY* AND PUT AN END TO HIS *EVIL WAYS*.

IS THERE *ANYTHING* YOU CAN DO TO *AID* ME IN THIS *GOAL*?

OVER THE YEARS, I HAVE BECOME *ONE* WITH THIS *WORLD* AND THE *SOUL GEM* IT RESIDES IN.

IN THIS UNION I CAN PERFORM *MIRACLES*.

BUT ONE MIRACLE I COULD *NEVER ACCOMPLISH* IS TO FORCE YOU INTO RENOUNCING YOUR *WAR* WITH *THANOS* AND SETTLING DOWN TO A *PEACEFUL LIFE* HERE ON SOULWORLD.

SO I SHALL USE MY POWERS TO RETURN YOU AND DRAX TO YOUR *PHYSICAL BODIES*.

THANK YOU.

BUT WON'T THIS *ACTION* ALERT THANOS TO THE FACT THAT YOU ARE STILL A *SENTIENT FORCE* WITHIN HIS SOUL GEM?

PROBABLY.

WHEN I WAS OF THE *FLESH*, I WAS LIKE *THANOS* IN MANY WAYS.

MINE WAS A *VIOLENT* AND *UNHAPPY* EXISTENCE.

MY SOUL WAS IN *CONSTANT TORMENT*.

YOUR REALITY WAS A *TORMENT* I COULD NOT ENDURE.

I WAS GLAD TO BE *FREE* OF IT.

I FOUND *PEACE* AND *FRIENDLY COMPANIONSHIP* IN SOULWORLD, PRECIOUS TREASURES DENIED ME IN LIFE.

ONLY HERE DO THE *MAD FLAMES* OF MY *PASSIONS* COOL TO BEARABLE LEVELS.

THIS IS A HOME I VOWED *NEVER* AGAIN TO LEAVE.

BUT THE TRUTH IS THE SOULWORLD YET REMAINS *PART* OF THE *UNIVERSE!*

IT IS NOT THE *HAVEN* I DREAMT IT TO BE.

EVENTUALLY, THANOS WILL TURN HIS *INSANE GAZE* OUR WAY.

HE'LL *LOATHE* THE WONDROUSLY *PEACEFUL EXISTENCE* HE'LL FIND HERE.

THE TITAN WILL NOT ALLOW IT TO REMAIN *UNTOUCHED* BY HIS *DARK* AND *TWISTED SOUL.*

SO, IT SEEMS, SURFER...

...YOUR STRUGGLE HAS BECOME *MINE,* ALSO.

ADAM, YOU'RE NOT SAYING THAT--

ONLY THAT THE *TIME* HAS COME FOR THE SURFER TO *LEAVE* US.

GO NOW, NORRIN RADD!

RETURN TO THE *FLESH*, *BLOOD* AND THE *BONE*!

I, THE *LEADER* OF SOULWORLD, *EXILE* YOU FROM *PARADISE*!

GO IN PEACE.

WHAT HAPPENING?

BUT KNOW YOU *THIS*, SILVER SURFER...

... FROM THIS MOMENT ON YOU HAVE AN ALLY IN *ADAM WARLOCK.*

WHEN YOU ARE MOST IN *NEED* OF MY AID...

"...I WILL BE BY YOUR SIDE!"

DESTROYER IS BACK!

WHERE IS THANOS?

WE'VE BEEN RETURNED TO OUR BODIES!

THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION, MY TROUBLESOME FRIEND, IS OBVIOUS.

HE'S LONG GONE TO PARTS UNKNOWN.

WHAT IS THAT?!

FLAMES!

FLAMES LIKE THOSE BELONGING TO...

...MY OLD NEMESIS, MEPHISTO!

YOU WILL BE PLEASED THAT, FOR ONCE, I COME BEARING YOU NO ILL WILL.

IN FACT, I AM HERE TO AID YOU.

HOW SO?

BY INFORMING YOU THAT THANOS OF TITAN HAS DEPARTED TO A FAR-DISTANT CORNER OF THE UNIVERSE, TO CONTEMPLATE THE VAST POWERS HE SO RECENTLY ACQUIRED.

HE PONDERS WHAT DEVILTRY HE MIGHT ACCOMPLISH USING HIS LIMITLESS MIGHT ON THIS PATHETIC UNIVERSE OF YOURS.

WHEN DECISIONS ARE REACHED AND GRAND PLANS MAPPED OUT, HE WILL RETURN TO THIS WRETCHED CORNER OF REALITY AND MAKE OF IT SOMETHING WORSE THAN HADES!

SO BE WARNED!!

MILLIONS OF LIGHT YEARS AWAY...

YOU HAVE BEEN IN THE PRESENCE OF THE *SILVER SURFER* AND WARNED HIM OF MY *INTENTIONS*, HAVEN'T YOU, MEPHISTO?

YES, MIGHTY *THANOS*.

WHY?

HE IS AN *OLD ENEMY* OF MINE, AND I WISHED TO CAUSE HIM *DISTRESS* AND *ANXIETY*.

I SEE.

HOW PETTY.

BUT THE SURFER IS ALSO A FOE WHO HAS MANAGED THE *IMPOSSIBLE*.

HE HAS *ESCAPED* FROM THE *SOUL GEM!*

THIS *PERSISTENT ANNOYANCE* MUST BE DEALT WITH *HARSHLY*.

BUT *NOT* PERSONALLY.

I HAVE A NEED FOR *SPECIAL AGENTS*.

Next:

GALACTUS!

MARVEL® COMICS™

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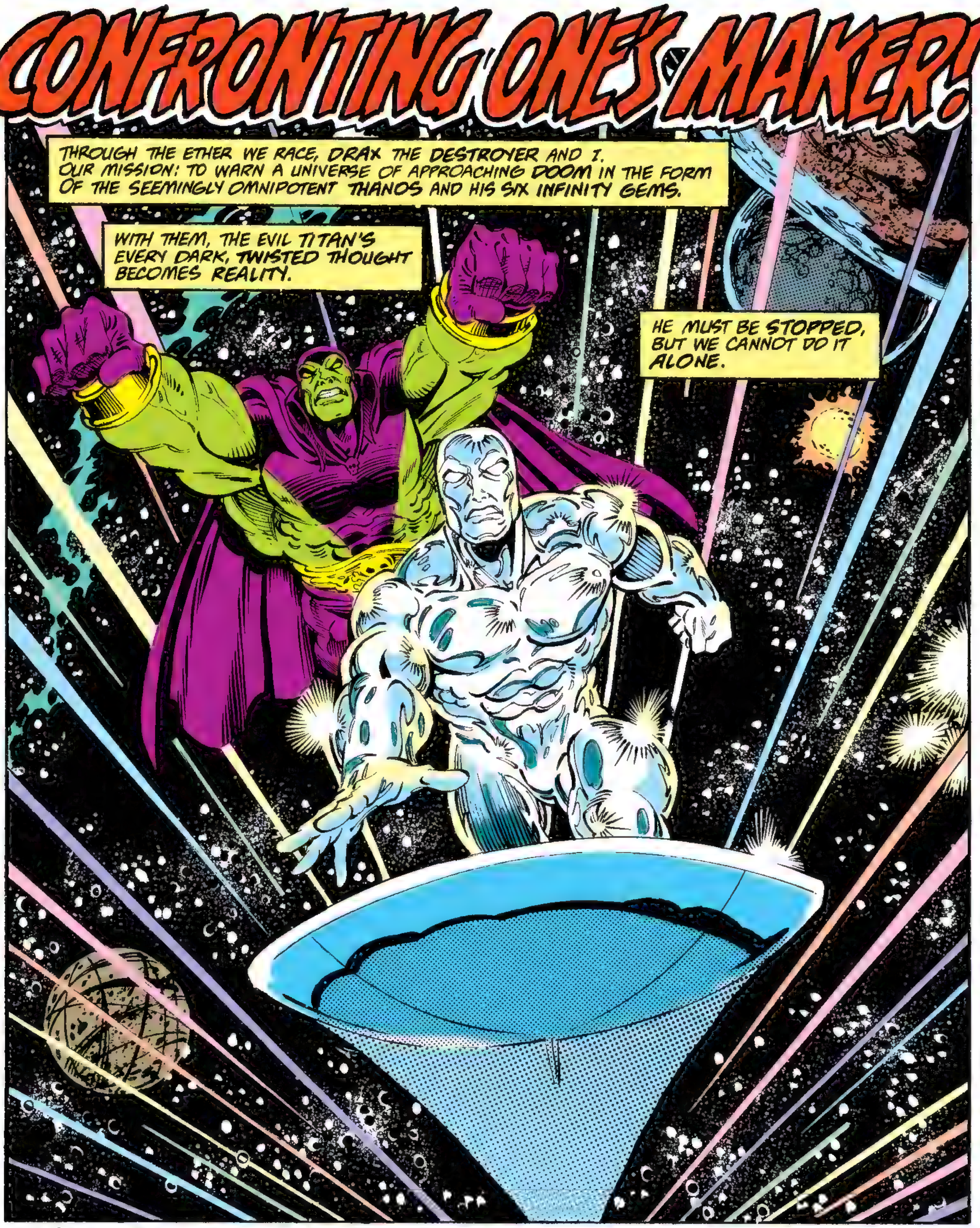
THE SILVER SURFER®

PAST SINS

TO SAVE HIS PLANET, **NORRIN RADD** SURRENDERED HIS FREEDOM TO BECOME HERALD TO THE WORLD-DEVOURING **GALACTUS**. COATED WITH GALACTIC GLAZE, GIVEN A SURFBOARD OBEYING HIS MENTAL COMMANDS, AND GRANTED THE POWER COSMIC, HE NOW SOARS THE UNIVERSE A SHINING SENTINEL OF THE SPACEWAYS! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . . **THE SILVER SURFER!**

CONFRONTING ONE'S MAKER!



JIM STARLIN · RON LIM · TOM CHRISTOPHER · KEN BRUZENAK · TOM VINCENT · CRAIG ANDERSON · TOM DeFALCO
WRITER PENCILER INKER LETTERER COLORIST EDITOR CHIEF

BUT SOMETIMES PERSONAL CONCERNS WRONGLY OVERRIDE MORE PRESSING MATTERS.

WHY YOU STOP, SURFER?

DRAX, YOU MUST GO ON *WITHOUT* ME.

I WILL MEET YOU ON *TITAN* AFTER I WARN *EARTH'S HEROES* OF THANOS' S VILE PLANS.

WHERE YOU GOING?

BUT...

THERE IS SOMETHING I MUST ATTEND TO. I'VE NO TIME TO EXPLAIN.

...BUT...EARTH NOT IN THAT DIRECTION!

NO, BUT *HE* WHO *CREATED* ME IS.

HE AND ONE OTHER.

SILVERADO, GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

NOVA, I WISH TO TALK WITH YOUR MASTER.

IT WOULD BE BEST IF WE SPOKE *ALONE*.

HUH?

SURE, WHATEVER YOU SAY.

THERE ARE CERTAIN *SUBJECTS* EVEN FORMER PARA-*MOURS* SHOULD NOT BE PRIVY TO.

I SEEK CONFERENCE WITH MY *MAKER* ON *DEEPLY HELD CONCERNS*.

THIS MEETING NEEDS *NO AUDIENCE*.

MINE IS A *PROBLEM* THAT CAN ONLY BE RESOLVED BY *MYSELF* AND...

GALACTUS!

HAS THE TIME COME FOR YET ANOTHER PLANET TO FALL PREY TO YOUR INSATIABLE APPETITE?

IT IS BUT AN UNINHABITED HUNK OF ROCK AND NO CONCERN OF YOURS, MY FORMER HERALD.

THAT ONE TIME POSITION OF MINE IS EXACTLY WHAT I'VE COME TO DISCUSS.

NORRIN RADD, I SENSE ANGER WHERE RESPECT AND CAUTION WOULD PROVE MORE APPROPRIATE.

I WISH TO SPEAK WITH YOU OF THE *GENESIS* OF OUR PAST ALLIANCE.

WHAT IS THERE TO DISCUSS?

YOU OFFERED YOUR *SERVICES* TO ME IF I WOULD BUT *SPARE* YOUR HOMEWORLD, *ZENN-LA*.

I *AGREED* TO THE BARGAIN, GRANTED YOU *COSMIC POWERS*, AND YOU BECAME MY HERALD FOR A TIME, THE *SILVER SURFER*.

MY MIGHT GAVE BIRTH TO A *FANCIFUL CREATION* I GLEANED FROM YOUR *OWN MIND*.

YES, THE SURFER WAS AN *ADOLESCENT FANTASY* I HAD LONG KEPT TO MYSELF.

THROUGH YOUR POWER I BECAME THE *REALITY* OF MY OWN *DREAMS*.

IN MY SERVICE YOU BECAME, AND REMAIN A *UNIQUE* AND *POWERFUL BEING*.

IT WAS A *GOOD DEAL* YOU STRUCK.

WAS IT?

SPEAK YOUR MIND, NORRIN RADD.

SOME TIME AGO I ENCOUNTERED A POWERFUL MADMAN NAMED *GARNOK REBBAHN.**

HE WAS AN INTERPLANETARY *MASS MURDERER.*

**SS ANNUAL #3.*

WHEN I CONFRONTED HIM WITH HIS CRIMES HE *CHALLENGED* MY *RIGHT* TO JUDGE HIM.

HE CLAIMED MY *PAST ASSOCIATION* WITH YOU MADE ME AS *GUILTY* AS HIM.

FOR SOME UNEXPLAINABLE REASON HIS ACCUSATIONS CAUSED ME TREMENDOUS *MENTAL TURMOIL.* I SUFFERED TERRIBLE *HALLUCINATIONS.*

THEY PASSED, BUT I BEGAN TO *WONDER.*

I AIDED YOU IN THE *DESTRUCTION* OF HUNDREDS OF *WORLDS,* ABETTED THE *DEATHS* OF MILLIONS OF *POOR SOULS.*

YET I'VE NEVER FELT ANY *GREAT GUILT* OVER THIS MATTER.

HOW CAN THAT BE?

I HAD HOPED YOUR MIGHTY POWERS WOULD *SPARE* YOU SUCH CONFRONTATIONS.

BUT I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED THAT *HOPE* WAS DOOMED...

...KNOWING YOUR PENCHANT FOR *RIGHTING WRONGS* AND *PROTECTING* THE *WEAK.*

JUST RECENTLY THERE WAS YET *ANOTHER INCIDENT.*

WHILE TRAPPED IN A STRANGE PLANE OF EXISTENCE CALLED *SOUL-WORLD,* I MET A BEING CALLED *ADAM WARLOCK.*

HE HAD THE EERIE POWER TO *LOOK* INTO MY *SOUL.* DO YOU KNOW WHAT HIS INSPECTION FOUND?

ALTERATIONS! MODIFICATION! TAMPERING! SOMEONE HAD MANIPULATED THE WORKINGS OF MY SPIRIT.

WAS THAT SOMEONE *YOU?*

YES.

OUR AGREEMENT WAS THAT YOU WOULD GIVE ME POWER IN ORDER TO *SERVE* AND *OBEY* YOU.

THIS I DID *FAITH-FULLY* FOR *DECADES.*

THERE WAS *NEVER* ANY MENTIONING OF *TAMPERING* WITH MY *SOUL.*

YOU TINKERED WITH THE *ESSENCE* OF WHAT IS *ME!*

WHY?

NORRIN RADD WAS AN *HONORABLE* MAN.

HE WOULD *NOT* HAVE BEEN *CAPABLE* OF CARRYING OUT *CERTAIN DESIRES* OF MINE...

...WITHOUT UNDERGOING DELICATE *PERSONALITY ALTERATIONS.*

THE WISH CAN BE EASILY REALIZED.

BUT ARE YOU *CERTAIN* THIS IS WHAT YOU WANT?

YES.

UNDO YOUR HANDIWORK, MIGHTY GALACTUS!

ALLOW ME TO BE THE *MAN* I SHOULD BE.

THE SOUL CAN BE A MERCILESS TORMENTOR.

DO IT.

AS YOU WISH.

IT IS DONE.

I FELT NOTHING.

A SUBTLE EPIPHANY.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

HUH?

THE PAIN! THE...

JUST LIKE IN MY DELIRIUM ON ELOWA!

GUILT.

BUT THERE WASN'T THIS MUCH AGONY THE LAST TIME?

WAS BUT A TWINGE OF CONTRI-TION.

IT KEEPS MOUNTING, GROWING; OVERPOWERING!

THE FLOODGATES ARE NOW FULLY OPEN.

WHEN WILL IT END?

AN INFINITE RIVER OF GUILT OVER THE DEAD OF A THOUSAND WORLDS.

IT ALL BECOMES SO HORRIFYINGLY CLEAR.

MY DARK AND TERRIBLE SINS COME SCREECHING FROM THEIR DUNGEON.

THEY SEEK VENGEANCE ON THE PSYCHE THAT SO LONG IMPRISONED THEM.

RAZOR SHARP GUILT SLASHES AWAY AT THE COMFORTING ILLUSIONS OF EGO AND SELF-DELUSION.

MY LIFE IS EXPOSED FOR THE SHAM IT TRULY IS.

THE MASK OF SELF-RIGHTEOUS VIRTUE IS TORN FROM MY FACE.

I AM FORCED TO GAZE DEEPLY INTO THE MIRROR OF SELF-REALIZATION.

ALL HOPE CRUMBLES WITHIN MY DESPERATE GRASP.

I AM LOST.

NORRIN RADD!

AWAKEN!

NORRIN RADD!

IT WAS NOT... BUT AN HALLUCINATION... JUST LIKE BEFORE...

A TROUBLED MIND IS A FRIGHTENING HAVEN.

AND A DANGEROUS ONE.

IT IS NOT TOO LATE, NORRIN RADD.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE CAN BE REVERSED.

NO...

...NO.

I'VE A PAST AND SINS I MUST LEARN TO ACCEPT AND LIVE WITH...

...TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR.

TOO LONG HAVE I HIDDEN AWAY IN THE COZY HARBOR OF SELF-DECEIT.

NEVER AGAIN.

I WILL EITHER COME TO TERMS WITH MY SOUL'S BURDEN OR DIE TRYING.

A MAN CAN LIVE NO OTHER WAY AND REMAIN A MAN.

I MUST BE AWAY.

EARTH MUST BE WARNED OF THE AWESOME DANGER THAT COMES ITS WAY.

THANOS RETURNS.

I HAVE HEARD OF THIS CREATURE.

AND YOU SHALL HEAR MORE OF HIM. THE DARK TITAN IS NOW A FORCE ALL THE UNIVERSE MUST RECKON WITH.

EVEN YOUR GREAT MIGHT, LORD GALACTUS, IS NOTHING COMPARED TO THE POWER HE WIELDS.

GALACTUS IS ABOVE THE PETTY CARES OF THE UNIVERSE, SURFER.

I AM A SINGULAR POWER NONE DARES CHALLENGE.

I PRAY THAT YOU ARE RIGHT, MIGHTY ONE.

BUT I HAVE MY DOUBTS.

FAREWELL.

EVEN FROM THE *MOUTHS OF BABES* CAN WISDOM BE FOUND.

SHOW YOURSELF, EVIL ONE.

THE *STENCH* OF YOUR *SOUL* BEFOULS THE AIR.

NOT A VERY CORDIAL GREETING FROM ONE WHO CLAIMS GALACTIC STATUS.

WHAT BUSINESS HAS THANOS OF TITAN WITH MIGHTY GALACTUS?

HE IS BUT THE BEARER OF GLAD TIDINGS AND SAGE ADVICE.

DOES THIS ADVICE VEIL A THREAT?

MERELY A WARNING.

THERE ARE *MATTERS* AFOOT THAT WOULD BE *FOOLISH* TO MEDDLE IN.

FOOLISH EVEN FOR BEINGS OF *NEAR* INFINITE POWER, LIKE *YOURSELF.*

WHAT IF I CHOOSE *NOT* TO AVAIL MYSELF OF SUCH *WISE* COUNSEL?

EVEN *LEGENDS* DIE.

LOOK ABOUT THIS *WORLD* YOU PREPARE TO DEVOUR, GALACTUS.

CAN YOU NOT FEEL IT?

FEEL WHAT?

THE EPHEMERAL QUALITY OF ITS REALITY.

IT IS SO TRAGICALLY VULNERABLE.

NOT UNLIKE YOUR OWN REALITY.

SERVICE 'DROIDS DEPLOY TO RETRACT SIPHONING STRUCTURE.

THANOS, THIS IS *NOT* THE *END* OF THIS *ENCOUNTER.*

DEFIANT, ISN'T HE?

INJUDICIOUS.

SOULWORLD.

ALL ARE AWARE OF THE FACTS; NO FURTHER DISCUSSION IS NEEDED.

A DECISION MUST BE DETERMINED.

THANOS NOW POSSESSES THE SIX *INFINITY GEMS*, INCLUDING THE *ONE* WE RESIDE IN.

WITH THEM, *ALL THINGS* ARE POSSIBLE FOR HIM.

HE SEEKS TO *PAINT* THE HEAVENS WITH HIS *PERVERTED IDEOLOGY.*

AND THERE MAY BE NO WAY TO STOP HIM.

WE CAN EITHER REMAIN *HERE*, HOPING TO RIDE OUT THE *STORM*, PRAYING FOR *SALVATION*...

...OR WE CAN *AID* THOSE WHO STAND AGAINST THANOS'S *INSANE MARCH* TO *OMNIPOTENCE.*

PAST EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT ME THAT TURNING A *BLIND EYE* TO EVIL ONLY *STRENGTHENS* IT.

BUT *DELUSION* IS A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD.

THANOS THINKS ME *DEAD* AND OUT OF HIS LIFE.

HIS COSMOS-SPANNING PLANS AND SCHEMES *DON'T* TAKE MY EXISTENCE INTO *CONSIDERATION.*

I MAY PROVE TO BE A *WILD CARD* IN THIS GAME OF GALACTIC UPHEAVAL.

SO ADAM WARLOCK CHOOSES TO JOIN THE STRUGGLE.

NEXT DETOUR

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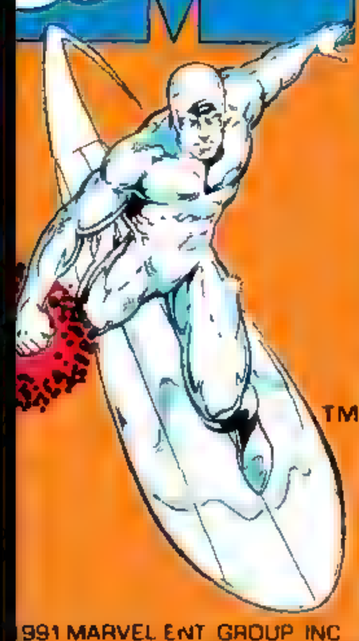

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THE SILVER SURFER

PRIMAL CONFLICT!

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TITAN.

THE LARGEST MOON OF SATURN. BENEATH ITS INHOSPITABLE SURFACE LIES A COLONY OF SUPERMEN, AN OFFSHOOT OF THE ADVANCED RACE CALLED ETERNALS. THEY LIVE AS GODS, LED BY MENTOR, LITERALLY THE FATHER OF HIS PEOPLE. THE TITANS HAVE CARVED THEIR PARADISE FROM LIVING ROCK.

DETOUR

WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU DON'T REMEMBER!?

RON MARZ · WRITER
RON LIM · PENCILER
TOM CHRISTOPHER · INKER
KEN BRUZENAK · LETTERER
TOM VINCENT · COLORIST
CRAIG ANDERSON · EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO · CHIEF

TAKE IT *EASY* ON HIM, *EROS*. HE'S NOT THE *MAN* HE *USED* TO BE.

FATHER, HE JUST *SHOWED UP* TELLING US HE WAS SUPPOSED TO MEET THE SILVER SURFER HERE.

THEN HE SAYS HE'S GOT SOMETHING *IMPORTANT* TO TELL US.

SOMETHING ABOUT *THANOS*.

AND *THEN* HE SAYS...

...UM...I FORGOT...

HE FORGOT!

MY *INSANE* BROTHER *THANOS* COULD BE DESTROYING AN *ENTIRE GALAXY*, AND *HE* FORGOT.

GREAT KRONOS, FATHER! WE THOUGHT WE HAD RID THE UNIVERSE OF *THANOS'S* SCOURGE, BUT *SOMEHOW* HE'S ALIVE AGAIN.

AND NOW WE SIMPLY *SIT* HERE. WE *MUST* ACT.

DON'T LET YOUR *EMOTIONS* RUN AWAY WITH YOU, MY SON.

THANOS CONCERNS *ME*, ALSO. PERHAPS *MORE* THAN YOU CAN *EVER* UNDERSTAND. BUT DIRECTING YOUR *ANGER* AT THIS *POOR CREATURE* ACCOMPLISHES NOTHING.

MY GUESS IS THAT THE DESTROYER'S *REVIVAL* WAS FOR THE *SOLE PURPOSE* OF ELIMINATING THANOS. EVERYTHING *ELSE*, INCLUDING MOST OF HIS REASONING CAPABILITY AND MEMORY, IS *SECONDARY*.

THE DESTROYER IS SIMPLY...

...*SLOW*.

HE'S AN *IDIOT*.

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO *WAIT* FOR THE SURFER TO GET HERE BEFORE WE HEAR THE *WHOLE* STORY.

WHERE *IS* HE ANYWAY, DESTROYER?

...UM... I DUNNO.

I'VE LOST TOO MUCH TIME, SPENT TOO LONG WANDERING THE DARK RECESSES OF MY MIND.

WHILE I GAINED KNOWLEDGE OF MY TRUE PAST, I LOST PRECIOUS HOURS ON MY JOURNEY TO EARTH.

THAT PLANET'S SUPER-BEINGS MUST BE WARNED OF THANOS'S NEWFOUND MIGHT. THEIR COMBINED FORCES MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE AT PUTTING AN END TO HIS MADNESS.

I ONLY PRAY THAT THE TIME IT TOOK ME TO CONFRONT GALACTUS HASN'T ALREADY DOOMED HALF THE UNIVERSE.

MY MISSION CAN BEAR NO MORE DELAYS. I MUST RACE AS I HAVE NEVER RACED BEFORE.

THE SURFER HEADS FOR EARTH. EVER THE *HERO*.

HE THINKS HE CAN *DISRUPT* MY PLANS IF HE CAN GATHER ENOUGH *SUPPORT* WITHIN EARTH'S COMMUNITY OF *PARANORMALS*.

THE PATHETIC *FOOL*.

I COULD REDUCE HIM TO *RANDOM ATOMS* WITH BUT A THOUGHT.

BUT WHEN I *DESTROY* THE SURFER, I WANT TO BE *CLOSE ENOUGH* TO WRAP MY *FINGERS* AROUND HIS THROAT AND LOOK INTO HIS *EYES* AS THEY *GLAZE OVER*.

STILL, I DON'T SUPPOSE WE CAN LET HIS JOURNEY BE *UNEVENTFUL*, CAN WE?

I THINK WE'LL PREPARE A LITTLE *DELAY* FOR THE SURFER, SOMETHING TO KEEP HIM *OCCUPIED* WHILE I *LAY PLANS* FOR THE UNIVERSE'S *SUFFERING*.

YES, GREAT THANOS.

SOMETHING WITH *STYLE*. SOMETHING WITH *FLAIR*.

YES, GREAT THANOS.

AND *YOU*, MY DREARY LITTLE TOAD, HAVE SO *LITTLE* STYLE ANYMORE.

I'M AFRAID YOU'LL *NEVER* DO.

COME ALONG, LACKEY...

...LET'S MAKE SOME *MISCHIEF*.

YES, THIS IS *JUST* WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR. THE PLANET PRIMEVAL, *TEEMING* WITH *INNOCENT* LIFE.

IT IS A *FINE* CHOICE, GREAT THANOS.

OH, SHUT UP.

IN THE *UNLIKELY* EVENT I WANT YOUR OPINION, I'LL *ASK* FOR IT.

DON'T RUN AWAY, MY FURRY LITTLE FRIEND.

I HAVE SUCH *PLANS* FOR YOU.

SKWEEEE!

I'LL *REMAKE* YOU TO SUIT MY NEEDS.

GIVE YOU A *SMALL PORTION* OF MY POWER FOR A TIME, AND A LITTLE OF MY *DISPOSITION*.

YOU SHALL BE THE *RIGHT HAND* OF THANOS FOR ONE DAY.

A DAY IN WHICH I SHALL SET YOU ON THE *SCENT* OF THE SURFER.

AND WON'T HE BE SURPRISED?

DON'T DAWDLE, MEPHISTO. THERE ARE OTHER MATTERS TO WHICH WE MUST ATTEND.

GO FIND HIM, AND BEAR HIM TIDINGS FROM THANOS.

I'M MAKING GOOD TIME THUS FAR. IF I CAN MAINTAIN THIS PACE, I'LL REACH EARTH EVEN SOONER THAN I DARED HOPE.

HMMM. I WAS UNAWARE THIS REGION OF SPACE WAS COLONIZED, BUT THAT BEACON TELLS ME DIFFERENTLY. THE REGULARITY WITH WHICH IT PULSES MEANS IT'S THE PRODUCT OF INTELLIGENT LIFE.

IT COULD BE A PLEA FOR HELP. I CAN'T IGNORE IT.

THERE IS A BASE DOWN HERE,

OR WAS.

THERE'S BEEN SOME SORT OF CATASTROPHE HERE. I CAN'T AFFORD ANY DELAYS, BUT MY CONSCIENCE DEMANDS I SEARCH FOR SURVIVORS.

BY ALL THE STARS THAT SHINE!

THIS WAS NO ACCIDENT.

THIS WAS MURDER.

THIS WAS OBVIOUSLY SOME SORT OF KREE RESEARCH BASE. BUT THEY'RE NOT AT WAR ANYMORE. THIS SAVAGERY IS ALMOST INCOMPREHENSIBLE.

CARNAGE EVEN TOO BRUTAL FOR THE SKRULLS. WHO.. WHAT... COULD WREAK SUCH HAVOC ?

AND IS IT STILL HERE?

LURKING SOMEWHERE IN THE SHADOWS.

GAAAKKK!

KA-WHAAM!

WHUF!

...THAT COME FROM?

WHERE DID...

WHATEVER IN ALL THE UNIVERSE IS *THAT?*

IN ALL MY TRAVELS, I'VE NEVER SEEN THE LIKE OF IT BEFORE. THE SIZE, THE FEROCITY... HOW COULD SUCH A DEMON ACTUALLY LIVE?

RAAARRGH!

LOOK OU...

OOOWWWTTT!

I'VE GOT TO BUY MYSELF SOME TIME. GATHER MY WITS.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW IT CAN BE SO POWERFUL. WHERE IS ITS STRENGTH COMING FROM?

AAR-ARARGH!

SO QUICK, NO TIME...

POOOOM

IT APPEARS NEGOTIATION'S NO LONGER AN OPTION.

SOMEHOW, THAT THING'S NEARLY AS POWERFUL AS I AM. BUT I HAVE ONE ADVANTAGE IT CAN'T HOPE TO MATCH...

...AND IT'S PAST TIME I PUT IT TO PROPER USE.

COME AND GET ME IF YOU WANT ME, MURDERER.

HURRRRRRR...

RRRRAAA!

HUMPH!

OVERBALANCED... RIPPING ME FROM THE BOARD..

...NOT ENOUGH TIME TO AIM. HAVE TO LAY DOWN A BLIND FIRING PATTERN...

...TOO WIDE. NEXT TIME I'LL MAKE SURE.

SHALL WE JOUST AGAIN, MONSTER?

AND THIS TIME, I WON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE YOU.

WHERE DID THIS CREATURE COME FROM? IT CAN'T BE NATIVE TO THIS SCRAP OF ROCK. WHY IS IT HERE?

IT SHRUGS OFF MY ENERGY CASTS AS IF THEY WERE NO MORE BOTHERSOME THAN FLIES. NOTHING NATURAL COULD POSSIBLY STAND UP TO SUCH AN ASSAULT.

WHICH MEANS ITS POWER MUST BE DERIVED FROM SOME OTHER SOURCE.

ONE THAT MUST BE ALMOST INFINITE.

MMMPH!

KA-KRACK!

THAT...

...IS...

...ENOUGH!

THOUGH I'VE NEVER *RUN* FROM A FIGHT...

...SOMETIMES DISCRETION *IS* THE BETTER PART OF VALOR.

AT LEAST IT IS IN *THIS* INSTANCE.

7

MMRRROOOW!

BUT I HAVE *NO MORE TIME* TO WASTE ON THE LIKES OF *YOU!*

I MUST *APOLOGIZE* FOR SUCH *CLOSE QUARTERS!*

FKOOOM!

LOST TIME... GOT TO GET MOVING...

FIRST THOUGH, I'LL MAKE *SURE* THIS BEAST WON'T BE IN *ANY* POSITION TO *THREATEN*...

...ANY...ONE...

...ELSE?

THIS IS *IMPOSSIBLE*. NOTHING...

UMMMMM?

UM-HUMMM!

UH-HUMM!

HUH

HUH?

SOMETHING BIZARRE TRANSPIRES HERE, SOMETHING UNNATURAL,

I'VE NO TIME TO SORT OUT MATTERS, THOUGH. THE CREATURE HAS UNDERGONE A META-MORPHOSIS--IT IS NO LONGER A THREAT

FAR MORE URGENT BUSINESS REQUIRES MY ATTENTION...

...AND I HAVE DALLIED TOO LONG AS IT IS.

THERE HE GOES, HURLING HIMSELF INTO THE VOID BECAUSE HE THINKS HE CAN SAVE THE UNIVERSE.

DOESN'T HE REALIZE IT'S FAR TOO LATE FOR THAT?

YOUR DESTINY IS IRREVOCABLE, GREAT THANOS.

INDEED, IT IS.

AND NO MAN ALIVE-- NOT THE SURFER, NOT EARTH'S HEROES, NOT EVEN MY ACCURSED FATHER, MENTOR--CAN CHANGE THAT FACT.

IT WAS MY WHIM TO DELAY THE SURFER. HIS QUEST WILL AMOUNT TO NOTHING.

HMMMMM...

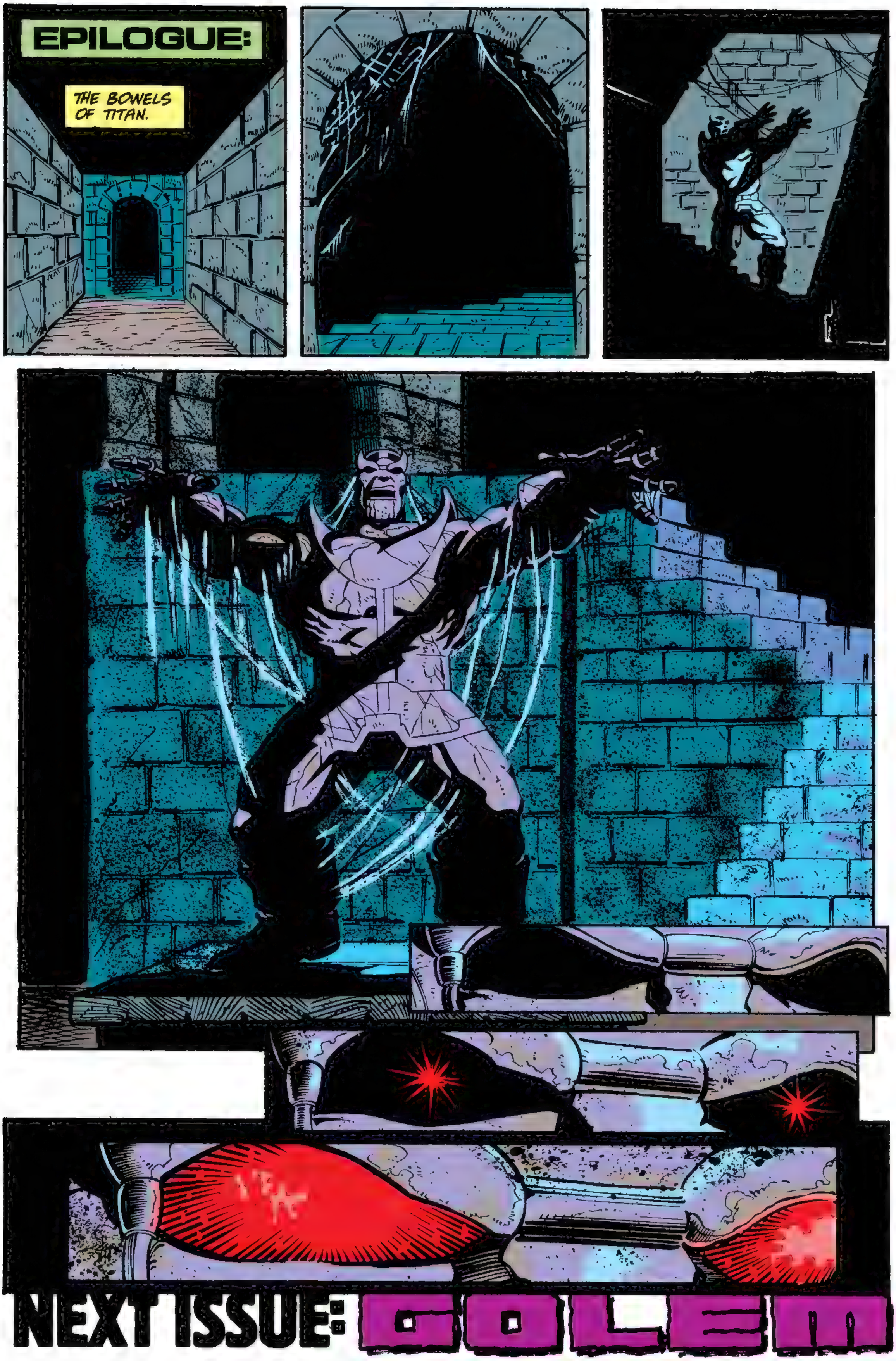
PITIFUL LITTLE CREATURE, ISN'T IT?

BUT AN OBEDIENT SERVANT, NONETHELESS.

COME ALONG, MEPHISTO. THERE'S MUCH TO BE DONE.

DESTINY WAITS FOR NO MAN.

NOT EVEN ONE WHO SHALL BRING THE UNIVERSE TO ITS KNEES.


EPILOGUE:
THE BOWELS OF TITAN.
NEXT ISSUE: GOLEM

MARVEL COMICS

50
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THE SILVER SURFER®

ANNIVERSARY 50TH ISSUE SPECTACULAR!

BIZ 90

50 YEARS OF CAPTAIN AMERICA
1941 – 1991

FEATURING...

SECRETS FROM THE SURFER'S PAST!

TO SAVE HIS PLANET, NORRIN RADD SURRENDERED HIS FREEDOM TO BECOME HERALD TO THE WORLD-DEVOURING GALACTUS. COATED WITH GALACTIC GLAZE, GIVEN A SURFBOARD OBEYING HIS MENTAL COMMANDS, AND GRANTED THE POWER COSMIC, HE NOW SOARS THE UNIVERSE A SHINING SENTINEL OF THE SPACEWAYS!

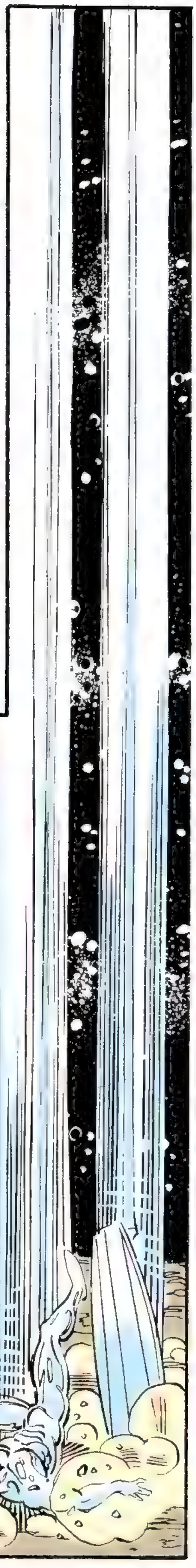
Stan Lee presents

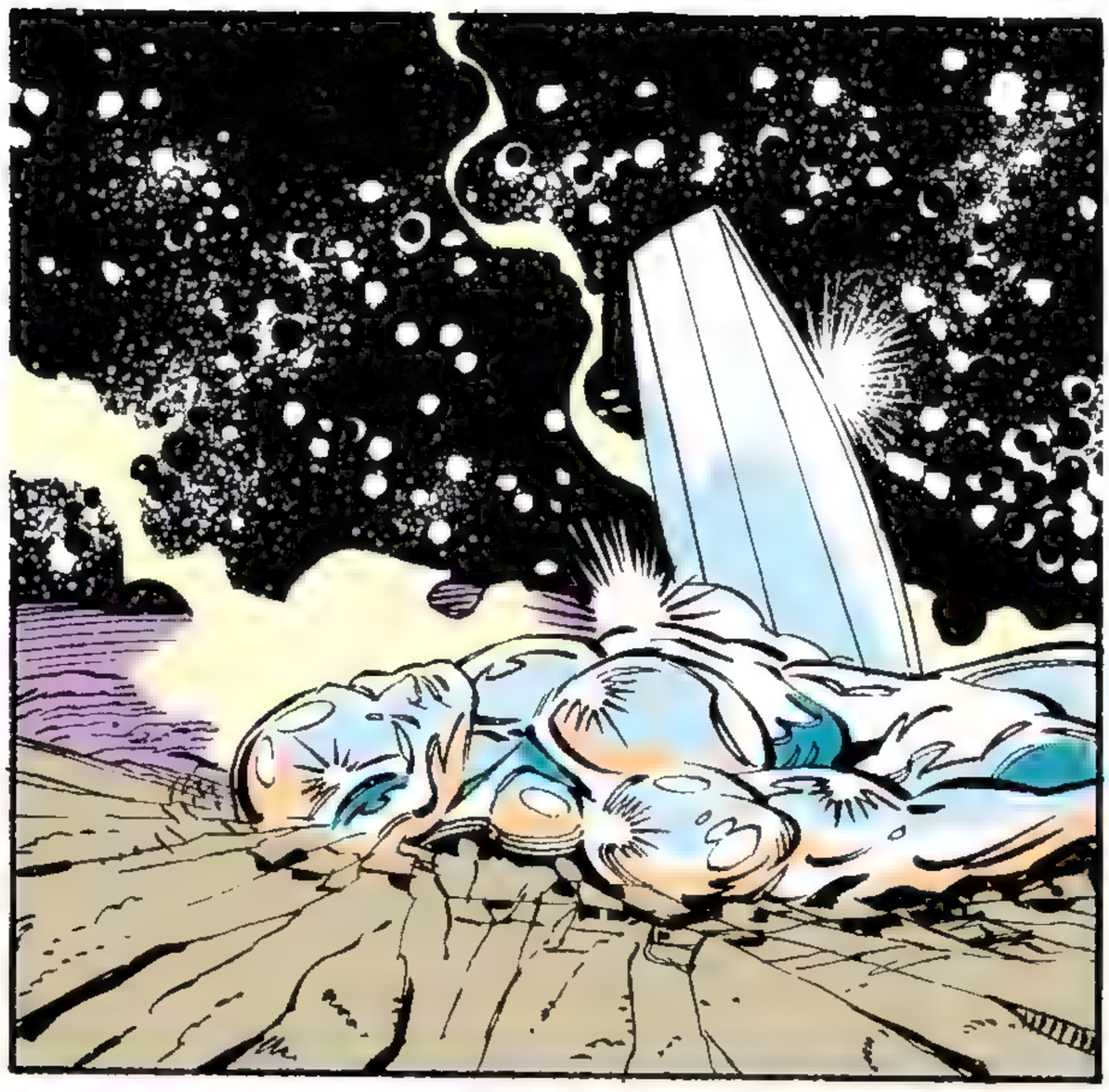
THE SILVER SURFER

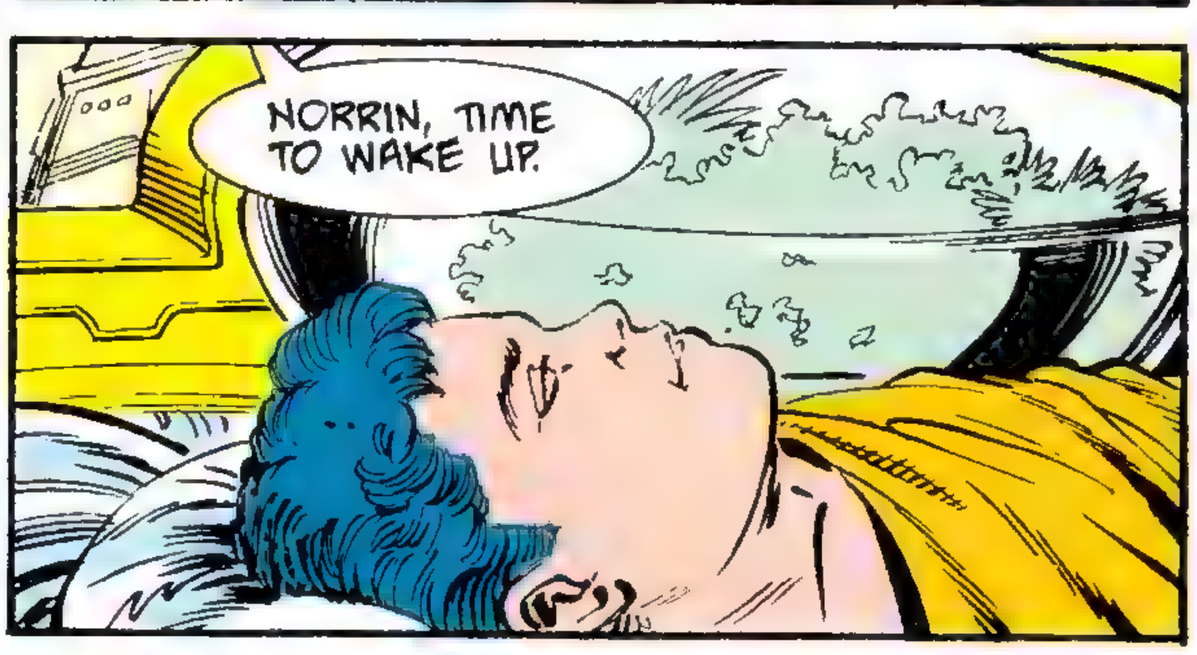
I WAS NEARING EARTH'S MOON. I'D ALMOST MADE IT.

THAT PLANET'S HEROES HAD TO BE WARNED THANOS HAD GAINED THE SIX INFINITY GEMS AND NOW POSSESSES GOD-LIKE POWER.

SO CLOSE.






NORRIN, TIME TO WAKE UP.

IN A FLASH IT ALL COMES BACK TO ME. I INSTANTLY RECOGNIZE MY OLD ROOM, AND THE MAN STANDING BY THE DOOR...

...JARTRAN RADD.

ARE YOU PLANNING ON SLEEPING THE ENTIRE DAY AWAY?

NO, FATHER.

THEN LET'S BE UP AND AT THEM, BOY.

TIME IS A PRECIOUS COMMODITY, ONE NOT TO BE WASTED.

WHEN YOU REACH MY AGE, YOU'LL REALIZE JUST HOW LITTLE OF IT YOU HAVE.

SO EVERY MOMENT MUST BE SPENT IN THE GLORIOUS PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE.

FOR WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE, LIFE IS NOT WORTH LIVING.

AND YOU DON'T WANT TO WASTE YOUR LIFE, DO YOU, NORRIN?

NO, FATHER.

"SURFER, TIME TO WAKE UP."

WE ALL HAVE THEM, SOMETIMES HIDING THEM EVEN FROM OURSELVES.

DEEPLY BURIED SECRETS!

WHO?

THANOS!

IN WHAT WAS ONCE THE FLESH.

AMAZING, NO?

MY NEWLY ACQUIRED POWERS ENABLE ME TO EVEN REANIMATE THIS STONE HUSK THAT WAS ONCE ME.

TO USE AS A WEAPON AGAINST ME?

PERHAPS. PERHAPS ONLY TO DELAY YOU.

MINE IS A DELICATELY BALANCED FUTURE. ONE I WILL NOT HAVE UPSET.

JIM STARLIN · RON LIM · TOM CHRISTOPHER · KEN BRUZENAK · TOM VINCENT · CRAIG ANDERSON · TOM DeFALCO

WRITER · PENCILER · INKER · LETTERER · COLORIST · EDITOR · CHIEF

ESPECIALLY BY *YOU*, ONE OF MY MORE *FASCINATING FOES.*

I SENSE THAT *YOU* AND I ARE *ALIKE* IN SOME WAYS.

ARE WE NOT BOTH *EXPATRIATES* FAR FROM OUR *HOMEWORLDS?*

YET I SUSPECT GREATLY *DIFFERING REASONS* ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR RESPECTIVE EXILES.

THE *KILLING* OF YOUR *OWN MOTHER* IS THE REASON YOU CAN NEVER AGAIN RETURN HOME.

A *YOUTHFUL INDISCRETION.*

THE FIRST OF *MANY MURDERS.*

FOREVER THE *RIGHTEOUS HERO.*

NEVER THE *FORGIVING SOUL.*

FORGIVING?

IS THAT A *RAW NERVE* I HEAR TINGLING?

YES, MOST DEFINITELY A *TENDER AREA* UNWITTINGLY PROBED.

WITH THE *MIND GEM* I COULD *EXTRICATE* THIS *SECRET MEMORY* FOR INSPECTION AND EXAMINATION.

BUT THE PROCESS, UNFORTUNATELY, WOULD LEAVE YOU A *DROOLING VEGETABLE.*

HOW INTERESTING, HOW *VERY* INTERESTING.

AND YOU'RE TOO *COMPLEX* AND *ENTERTAINING* AN ADVERSARY TO NEEDLESSLY DESTROY.

THAT'S THE BEAUTY OF REACHING *DIVINE STATUS.*

YOU CAN *AFFORD* TO *ALLOW* YOUR ENEMIES TO *LIVE.*

IN MY CASE, *THANOS...*

...THAT MAY PROVE A FATAL MISTAKE!

LET THE *GAME* BEGIN!

LET THE PAST BE UNEARTHED!

LET THE HEART BE OPENED!

LET THE SOUL REVEAL ITS HIDDEN RECESSES!

NORRIN RADD, SHARE WITH ME THAT WHICH IS YOU!

NORRIN, YOU NEVER ALLOW YOURSELF TO HAVE ANY FUN.

WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS STUDYING SO HARD?

SHALLA BAL, HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU ASKED ME THAT SAME QUESTION?

AND HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I ANSWERED IT?

BUT JUST LOOK OUT THE WINDOW AT THIS MARVELOUS WORLD OF WORLDS!

OUR WORLD! ZENN-LA!

OUR PEOPLE HAVE ACHIEVED NEAR PERFECTION THROUGH THE MARVELS OF SCIENCE.

ZENN-LA IS A GEM IN THE HEAVENS-- PARADISE.

OUR PEOPLE ARE SO ADVANCED, NO ONE EVER NEED AGAIN SUFFER THE TEDIUM OF LABOR IN ORDER TO LIVE COMFORTABLY.

YES, OURS IS A COMPUTERIZED WONDERLAND.

ROBOTS HARVEST OR SYNTHESIZE THE FOOD WE EAT, CONSTRUCT THE CLOTHES WE WEAR AND THE HOMES WE LIVE IN.

NO HUMAN HAND IS EVER DIRTIED.

COMPUTERS TEACH US JUST ENOUGH TO EXPLOIT THE SYSTEM FOR A CARE-FREE AND COMFORTABLE EXISTENCE.

A LIFE WITHOUT PURPOSE.

ZENN-LA COODLES ITS CHILDREN FROM WOMB TO TOMB WITHOUT EVER ALLOWING THEM TO FLY.

WHICH HAS ROBBED US OF WHAT, MY SON?

OUR SPIRIT, FATHER.

YES, OUR SPIRIT.

OUR WILL TO REACH OUT INTO THE UNKNOWN FOR ANSWERS HAS ATROPHIED.

WE HAVE BECOME A WEAK AND SOULLESS LOT, PAMPERED INTO THIS CONDITION BY MECHANICAL NANNIES.

A ONCE PROUD RACE WASTED AWAY.

COME, MY SON.

I HAVE RESERVED TIME ON THE *MENTAL TELEPORTATION ELEMENT* FOR US.

THERE'S A FASCINATING SECTION ON EARLY *THERMAL DYNAMICS* I WANT YOU TO SEE.

I'LL SEE YOU LATER, SHALLA BAL.

YES... LATER...

YOU NEVER CEASE TO *ASTOUND* ME, SURFER.

YOU'RE ACTUALLY *RESISTING* MY GENTLE MENTAL PROBE!

'TIS *NOT* A *WISE* MOVE.

I DO NOT *REACT WELL* TO RESISTANCE!

I *TRUST* I'VE MADE MY POINT.

NOW, WHERE WERE WE?

YOU MUST NOT GROW UP TO BE LIKE *THEM*, NORRIN.

THE EASY LIFE HAS CAUSED OUR PEOPLE TO LOSE THEIR WAY.

TOMORROW HOLDS NO MYSTERY OR PROMISE FOR THEM.

ONLY THE THRILL OF THE MOMENT MATTERS TO THEM.

SMALL WONDER SO MANY OF OUR YOUTH ABANDON THEMSELVES TO MIND-ALTERING ADVENTURES.

PITIFUL, NO?

AND SUCH A WASTE.

SOONER OR LATER THIS *WORLD* WILL ONCE AGAIN *NEED* FINE YOUNG *MINDS* LIKE YOUR OWN.

THINGS CANNOT GO ON THE WAY THEY HAVE.

A *CHANGE* IS COMING.

STAGNATION IS NOT A STATE *EASILY* MAINTAINED.

IT ALWAYS COMES BACK TO YOUR *FATHER*, DOESN'T IT?

I NEVER CARED FOR MINE.

BUT *JARTRAN* WAS YOUR *ROLE MODEL* AND YOUR *GOD*.

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHERE ALL THIS IS TAKING US.

TODAY *NORRIN RADD*, YOU ENTER MANHOOD!

LET ALL REJOICE!

IF ONLY YOUR *MOTHER* COULD HAVE BEEN HERE TO SEE THIS.

I MISS HER *TERRIBLY*, SOMETIMES, FATHER.

ELMAR WAS A *FRAGILE FLOWER*, UNABLE TO HANDLE EVEN ZENN-LA'S SIMPLE EXISTENCE.

I TRIED TO SHARE MY *STRENGTH* WITH HER, I REALLY DID.

I REMEMBER...

WE ARE ALL *PRISONERS* IN A *SILK-LINED* CELL.

IT'S SURPRISING THE *SUICIDE RATE* ISN'T HIGHER THAN IT IS.

...AND THE *SCIENCE REGENTS* VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO BESTOW THIS YEAR'S *DELTA AWARD* ON *JARTRAN RADD* FOR HIS INVENTION, THE *PSI-SONIC TRANSMITTER*.

THIS DEVICE HAS REVOLUTIONIZED THE *PSYCHO-RECREATIONAL ARTS*, A TRUE SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGH.

YOU MUST BE VERY PROUD, FATHER.

A *MINOR* IMPROVEMENT IN A *LEISURE SYSTEM* I LOATHE.

IT'S NOTHING MORE THAN THAT.

I COULD DO *MUCH MORE* IF ONLY I COULD GET PROPER *FUNDING* FROM THE *SCIENCE REGENTS.*

IN THE MEANTIME, I TINKER WITH *DREAM MACHINES.*

HOPEFULLY YOU, MY SON, WILL NOT HAVE SUCH *STIFLING OBSTACLES* THROWN INTO YOUR PATH.

GREATNESS AWAITS YOU, NORRIN.

GREATNESS, HEH?

YOUR FATHER HAD *GRAND PLANS* FOR YOU.

I WONDER WHAT HE WOULD THINK IF HE COULD SEE YOU NOW.

WOULD HE BE *PROUD?*

YOU *SUBVERT* MY MEMORIES TO FIT YOUR *PRECONCEPTIONS.*

DO I?

YOU *FIEND!*

TELEGRAPHING YOUR ANGER WILL BE THE DEATH OF YOU YET, SURFER.

BUT THEN, UNBRIDLED EMOTION HAS ALWAYS BEEN YOUR ACHILLES' HEEL.

HEY, NORRIN, I SEE YOUR FATHER IS IN THE NEWS AGAIN.

THE DAY'S LEAD STORY: *DELTA AWARD WINNER* ACCUSED OF *IDEA THEFT.*

THE *SCIENCE REGENT* ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THEY HAVE DISCOVERED *JARTRAN RADD* UTILIZED, IN HIS RESEARCH ON *PSI-SONICS*, EXTENSIVE RESEARCH DONE BY A *ZILAS FLANTZ*, WITHOUT AUTHORITY OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

DISCUSSIONS ARE UNDER WAY ON WHETHER RADD SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO RETAIN HIS *DELTA AWARD.*

EVERYTHING'S BEEN BLOWN *OUT OF PROPORTION.*

THE MEDIA WILL *TIRE* OF THE STORY AND *EVERYTHING* WILL BE *FORGOTTEN.*

TELL ME ABOUT IT, FATHER.

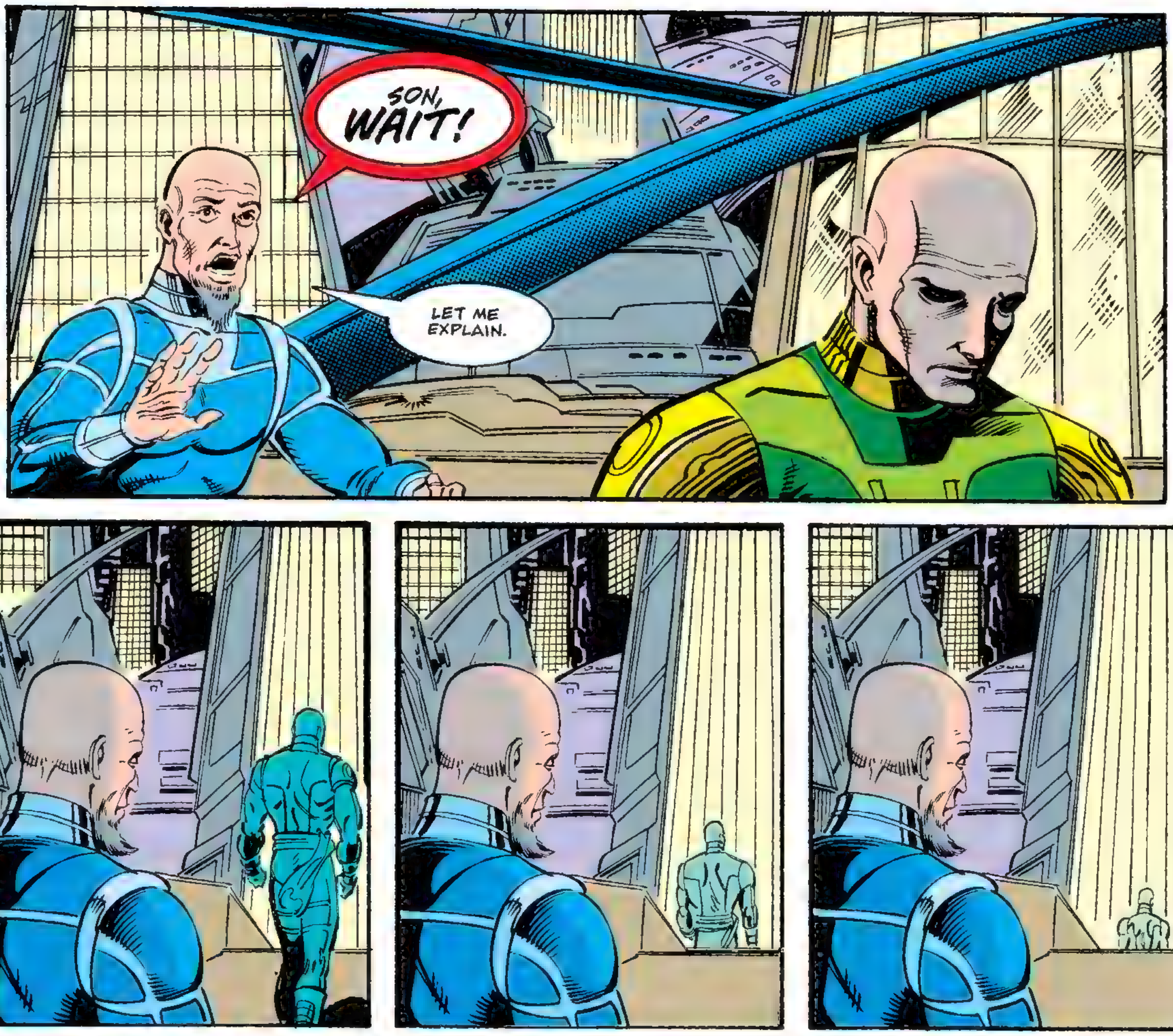
IT WAS A *SMALL FACTOR* IN AN EXTREMELY *COMPLEX EQUATION.*

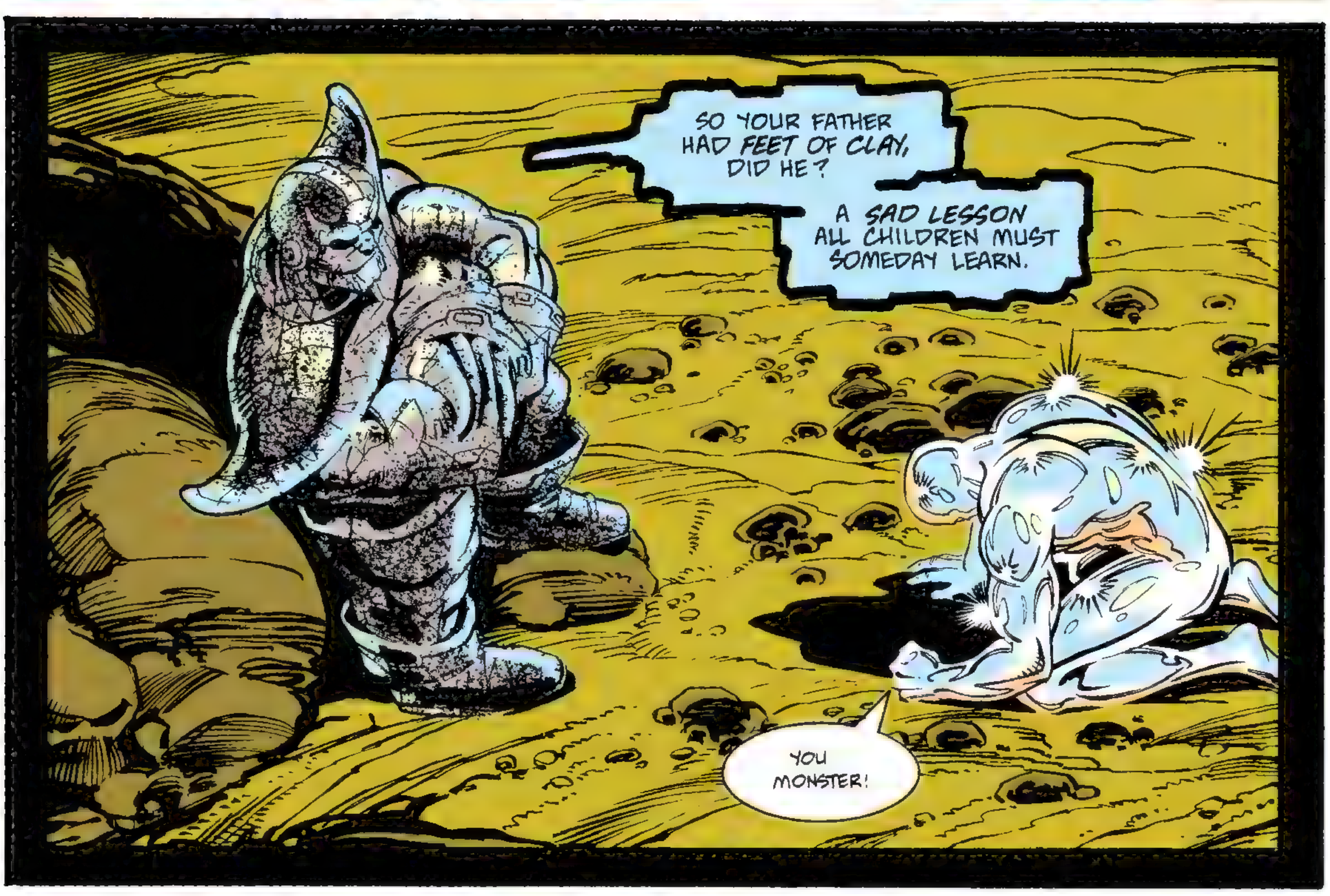
AN *OBSCURE* BIT OF WORK YOU *FAILED* TO *CREDIT* TO ITS CREATOR.

I... I FORGOT.

FORGOT?

OH, FATHER...


SON, WAIT!
LET ME EXPLAIN.


SO YOUR FATHER HAD FEET OF CLAY, DID HE?
A SAD LESSON ALL CHILDREN MUST SOMEDAY LEARN.
YOU MONSTER!

WE ARE *ALL* MONSTERS OF SOME SORT, SURFER.

IT'S JUST THAT SOME OF US HAVE THE *COURAGE*...

...TO BE COMPLETELY *OPEN* ABOUT IT.

THEN DIGEST THIS, LORD THANOS! NO MATTER YOUR *AGE*, OR THE EXTENT OF YOUR *POWER*...

...THERE ARE ALWAYS *NEW LESSONS* TO BE LEARNED AND *NEW TRICKS* TO BE TRIED.

AND *SINS* TO BE PAID FOR.

WHAT?

BY THE STARS!

THIS CANNOT BE!

WITH GODHOOD, NEARLY ALL THINGS BECOME POSSIBLE.

ONLY ONE GOAL ELUDES MY GRASP.

PATIENCE!

NOW, MY GLEAMING YET TARNISHED FOE, I REQUIRE AN *END* TO YOUR LITTLE *TALE OF WOE.*

ONCE AGAIN, *OPEN* YOURSELF TO ME.

CONFESSION, IT IS SAID, IS *GOOD* FOR THE *SOUL.*

NNNNNNOOOOOOOOOOOO

NORRIN!

THANK THE *HEAVENS* I FOUND YOU! I'VE BEEN LOOKING *EVERY-WHERE!*

WHAT?

I WANTED TO REACH YOU... FIRST.

IT... JUST CAME OVER... THE *NEWS BROADCAST...*

WHAT DID?

IT'S... IT'S... YOUR FATHER...

WHAT ABOUT HIM?!

THEY... FOUND HIM... IN HIS APARTMENT...

...THE AUTHORITIES... ARE SAYING... IT WAS...

...SUICIDE.

WILL YOU INFORM THE *AUTHORITIES* THAT I'LL BE ALONG *LATER*.

I WILL ATTEND TO ALL THE *ARRANGEMENTS*.

LATER?

YES, I HAVE SOME *WORK* TO FINISH, FIRST.

WHATEVER YOU SAY... NORRIN.

JARTRAN RADD'S PROPHECY EVENTUALLY COMES TO PASS: A MAJOR CHANGE OCCURS TO LIFE ON ZENN-LA.

RISE, PUNY CREATURE!

RISE AND FACE THE MONUMENTAL MAJESTY OF...

GALACTUS!

AND IN EXCHANGE FOR *SPARING* YOUR WORLD...

...YOU *AGREE* TO BECOME MY *HERALD.*

"*SO BE IT!*"

HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA

BEHOLD THE GREAT AND NOBLE SILVER SURFER!

BEHOLD THE MAN WHO SACRIFICED EVERYTHING TO SAVE HIS WORLD FROM DESTRUCTION!

BUT COULDN'T SPARE A SINGLE KIND WORD THAT WOULD HAVE SAVED HIS OWN FATHER!

AND HE CALLS ME A MONSTER!

YOU ARE A HYPOCRITE AND A FRAUD, NORRIN RADD!

YOUR CLOAK OF MORAL SUPERIORITY IS NOTHING BUT A SHAM!

HOW MANY OTHER DARK SECRETS HAVE YOU BURIED SO DEEPLY THAT EVEN YOU CAN'T REMEMBER THEM?

MANY, I SUSPECT.

SOME COSMIC SAINT YOU TURN OUT TO BE!

AT LEAST I LET THE LIGHT OF DAY SHINE UPON MY CRIMES!

I'VE NEVER TRIED TO HIDE WHAT I AM, ESPECIALLY FROM MYSELF!

THIS... THIS MUST BE MORE OF GALACTUS'S DOING!
YES, I NOTICED THAT YOUR FORMER MASTER DID A BIT OF SOUL ALTERING TO MAKE A BETTER HERALD OF YOU.
BUT I SAW NO TRACE OF HIS HANDIWORK ON THIS MEMORY.
DID YOU... DID YOU... ALSO SEE...
THIS DENIAL IS ENTIRELY OF YOUR OWN MAKING.

...THIS COMING?!

LET US SEE HOW WELL YOU *REASSEMBLE* THIS *HUSK* ONCE IT IS *REDUCED* TO ATOMIC ASH!

SHOW US YOUR **MAGIC** NOW, VILLAIN!

RISE AGAIN FROM THESE ASHES!

I COULD IF I WISHED TO, BUT I SEE NO POINT IN IT.

IT IS APPARENT THAT THIS ENTERTAINING INTERLUDE HAS PLAYED ITSELF OUT.

YOU MAY NOW GO ON YOUR WAY AND WARN EARTH OF MY GLORIOUS AND IMMINENT RETURN.

BUT REMEMBER THIS, SURFER.

I, ALONE, HAVE LOOKED INTO THE DARKENED CORNERS OF YOUR SOUL...

...AND KNOW YOU FOR WHAT YOU TRULY ARE.

HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA

TRUTH SOMETIMES WEARS A GROTESQUE FACE.

A FACE ALL MIRRORS FIND TOO HIDEOUS TO REFLECT.

TOO DARK TO PERCEIVE.

SO MANY TRUTHS.

THE REALITY OF WHAT I AM NOW...

...AND WHAT I USED TO BE.

HOW DO THEY COEXIST?

IS THE PRESENT HELD HOSTAGE TO THE PAST?

DOES ONE MISTAKE DILUTE THE GOOD OF A THOUSAND HONORABLE DEEDS?

HERO OR SCOUNDREL?

SAINT OR SINNER?

GENUINE OR A FAKE?

MUST EVERYTHING BE EITHER GOOD OR EVIL?

BLACK OR WHITE?

IS THERE NO ROOM FOR SHADES OF GRAY?

SO MANY QUESTIONS.

SO FEW ANSWERS.

JUST TOO MUCH FOR ONE MAN TO HANDLE...TO DIGEST...

AND IN THE END, THAT IS ALL I TRULY AM...

FLAWED.

IMPERFECT.

JUST A MAN.

TO BE CONTINUED IN

The INFINITY GAUNTLET #1

AND THEN COME RIGHT BACK HERE NEXT ISSUE—GALACTUS WILL BE WAITING!

***SILVER SURFER #50* 2ND & 3RD PRINTING COVERS**

SILVER SURFER #50
COVER ART
BY RON LIM &
TOM CHRISTOPHER

MARVEL® COMICS

1 JULY

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

THE INFINITY GAUNTLET™

THE END BEGINS HERE!

50 YEARS OF CAPTAIN AMERICA 1941 – 1991

STAN LEE PRESENTS

THE INFINITY GAUNTLET

THERE CAN BE NO DENYING IT: YOU ARE SUPREME.

ANYTHING YOU WISH TO BE, YOU ARE.

ANYTHING YOU WISH, IS.

NOTHING IN THIS UNIVERSE DARES CHALLENGE THAT CLAIM.

THERE BE ONLY ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE YOU...

WITHIN YOUR GRASP RESTS THE *INFINITE.*

MY *HUMBLE PERSONAGE* BOWS BEFORE YOUR *GRANDEUR.*

I AM PROUD TO BE YOUR *FIRST ACOLYTE* AND BASK IN THE GLORY OF YOUR DIVINE *PRESENCE.*

HOW MAY I SERVE YOU, *GREAT THANOS?*

WRITER
JIM STARLIN
PENCILS
GEORGE PEREZ
JOSEF RUBINSTEIN
W/ TOM CHRISTOPHER
INKERS
LETTERS
JACK MORELLI
COLORISTS
MAX SCHEELE
W/ IAN LAUGHLIN
EDITOR
CRAIG ANDERSON
TOM DeFALCO
CHIEF

BY FALLING SILENT, *MEPHISTO.*

THE MOMENT IS UPON US...

...WHEN THE *STARS* MUST COME TO REALIZE...

...THE *ABSOLUTE TRUTH* OF YOUR WORDS.

NONE SHALL DENY ME MY *RIGHTEOUS PLACE* IN THE PANTHEON OF THE *COSMIC GODS.*

I CLAIM A SEAT AT THE *HEAD* OF THE *TABLE.*

THERE ARE SECRETS HIDDEN WITHIN THE HEAVENS THAT EVEN I, THE **MASTER** OF THE **MYSTIC ARTS**, AM NOT PRIVY TO.

DR. STRANGE IS BUT A **MAGE**, NOT SOME **ALL-KNOWING DEITY**.

IT'D BEEN AN **UNEVENTFUL DAY** AND MY HOPE WAS THAT THE **NIGHT** WOULD BE THE **SAME**.

ALAS, SUCH GOOD **FORTUNE** WAS NOT TO SHINE ON ME.

I WAS IN THE MIDST OF A LATE DINNER WHEN I FIRST BECAME AWARE OF THE **APPROACHING CRISIS**.

WILL YOU BE GOING **OUT** TONIGHT, MASTER?

ONLY AS FAR AS MY MIND AND THIS BOOK WILL TAKE ME, **WONG**.

A MEDICAL JOURNAL?

ABOUT AN OUTBREAK OF **INSANITY** IN THE CATSKILL MOUNTAINS.

WHAT CAUSED THIS EPIDEMIC?

NO ONE SEEMS TO--

KER-RAKK

BY THE VISHANTI! WHAT WAS **THAT??**

IMEI AND **RINTRAH** ARE OUT SHOPPING!

WHICH MEANS WE HAVE AN **INTRUDER** ON THE PREMISES.

ONE WHO WILL SURELY **REGRET** CHOOSING THIS HOUSE TO--

YOU?

OF ALL THE PEOPLE I IMAGINED MIGHT BE LURKING IN MY STUDY, THE **SILVER SURFER** WAS NOT AMONG THE LIST.

AND THE TRUTH IS HE WASN'T EXACTLY LURKING. HE SEEMED BARELY CAPABLE OF **OPENING** HIS EYES AND **MOANING.**

STRANGE... MUST REACH... STRANGE...

YOU **HAVE,** MY FRIEND.

WONG, HELP ME GET HIM TO THE SOFA.

SURFER, CAN YOU HEAR ME?

Y-YES... CAME TO... WARN YOU...

WARN ME?

WARN ME ABOUT WHAT?

HIS ARRIVAL... COULD HERALD... THE **END** OF THE **UNIVERSE...**

GREAT DANGER...

COMING... THIS WAY...

... MUST BE... **STOPPED!**

WHO? WHAT??

THANOS IS COMING!

I KNOW, YOU THOUGHT HIM **DEAD**. HE WAS, BUT HE IS **NO LONGER**. HOW COULD ANY OF US KNOW THAT **MISTRESS DEATH** WOULD RESURRECT THIS MONSTER?

APPARENTLY DEATH HAS LONG THOUGHT THE FACT THAT THERE ARE MORE PEOPLE **ALIVE** TODAY THAN HAVE **EVER DIED** WAS A TYPE OF **COSMIC IMBALANCE.**

THIS WAS AN IRREGULARITY SHE SOUGHT TO RIGHT USING THE DARK POWERS AT HER DISPOSAL.

AND SO SHE MADE THE **TRAGIC MISTAKE** OF RETRIEVING **THANOS**, THE **MAD TITAN**, FROM THE REALM OF THE **DEAD**.

THROUGH HIM, DEATH WOULD **MOLD** THE UNIVERSE TO HER **LIKING.**

ALONG WITH RENEWED LIFE, DEATH GAVE HIM GREATLY **AUGMENTED POWER.**

THANOS WOULD NEED THIS **MIGHT** TO PERFORM THE **DARK TASK** HIS MISTRESS ASSIGNED HIM.

DEATH HAS ORDERED THANOS TO SLAUGHTER *HALF* THE SENTIENT *POPULATION* OF THE *UNIVERSE!*

FOR LONG MONTHS, MEPHISTO, I HAVE *CONTEMPLATED* THE DIRECTION IN WHICH I SHOULD STEER THE *DESTINY* OF THIS REALITY.

ALL THE MYRIAD POSSIBILITIES.

SO MANY CHOICES.

I DO NOT ENVY YOU SUCH ASTRAL BURDENS.

AT TIMES IT SEEMED I WOULD *DROWN* UNDER AN INFINITY OF *SELF-QUESTIONING.*

BUT AT LONG LAST I REALIZE THERE IS BUT *ONE QUESTION* THAT NEEDS ANSWERING.

I AM NOW *OMNIPOTENT.*

WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH SUCH *ALMIGHTY POWER?*

THE ANSWER TO *THAT--*

--IS REALLY *QUITE SIMPLE:*

ANYTHING I WANT.

ANYTHING.

I AM INCAPABLE OF ERROR.

ANY RESULT THAT DISPLEASES ME, I CAN SIMPLY REVERSE!

THERE IS NOTHING I NEED WORRY ON, FOR I AM THANOS.

AND THANOS IS SUPREME.

Huh, MOST DEFINITELY.

SUPREME.

BUT THANOS WAS TOO ARROGANT TO BE ANYONE'S THRALL.

HIS SINISTER SCHEME WAS CONCEIVED WHILE GAZING INTO THE DEPTHS OF DEATH'S INFINITY WELL.

THERE HE LEARNT OF THE SOUL OR INFINITY GEMS' TRUE POWER AND CONVINCED HIS DARK MISTRESS THAT THE TASK ASSIGNED HIM COULD NOT BE CARRIED TO FRUITION WITHOUT THEM.

NOT EVEN DEATH REALIZED WHAT LIMITLESS MIGHT THE MAD TITAN WAS STRIVING FOR. THROUGH CUNNING, SHEER STRENGTH, AND MURDER, THANOS WRESTED THE INFINITY GEMS FROM THOSE THAT POSSESSED THEM AND WITH EACH ACQUISITION HE GAINED MASTERY OVER...

THE SOUL

THE MIND

POWER

TIME

REALITY

SPACE

IN OTHER WORDS, THANOS NOW HAS THE UNBRIDLED POWER OF A GOD!

NO LONGER DO THE LAWS OF NATURE BIND HIM.

HIS WILL CAN BEND THE VERY FABRIC OF REALITY.

HE IS ALL AND ALL THERE IS IS NOW HIS TO COMMAND.

THANOS IS NOW MIGHTIER THAN DEATH HERSELF.

MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY FORCE IN THE UNIVERSE.

SUCH A FORCE IN THE HANDS OF A MADMAN.

A NIHILIST.

IT COULD MEAN THE END OF ALL THAT IS.

THEY WERE ALL GRADE-A LOSERS.

WE FIRST BECAME AWARE OF THEM AS THEY STEPPED OUT OF A BAR IN SOMEPLACE CALLED UPSTATE NEW YORK...

BAR

GULLY JONES BAR & GRILL

NATURALLY THEY WERE TANKED TO THE GILLS.

WE SHOULDA GOT OUTTA HERE HOURS AGO!

TOW AWAY ZONE

WE'RE HOT!

THE RINGLEADER WAS A COLD-EYED BRUTE CALLED JAKE MILLER...

GETTING PRETTY TIRED OF YER ALWAYS NAGGIN,' FATS.

THE TUB OF LARD WAS RALPH BUNKER...

SPECIAL EXHIBITION

YA JUST DON'T KNOCK OFF A LIQUOR STORE, WASTE THE SHOPKEEPER AND SPEND THE REST OF THE DAY IN A BAR!

THE BLONDE BIMBO WENT BY THE NAME OF BAMBI LONG. CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

FATS, YA JUST GOTTA LEARN TA RELAX AND ENJOY LIFE! Teehee!

CAN'T YOU TWO GET IT THROUGH YER HEADS WE GOTTA GET OUTTA STATE, MAYBE UP TA CANADA!

NOW PLAYING: AT THE LOTUS THEATRE BB DIAMOND ABE BROWN HECTOR AYALA KUNG FU

WE ARE.

THE COPS'LL BE LOOKIN' FER US ON THE THRUWAY.

THEN WE TAKE THE BACK ROADS, NO SWEAT.

I KNOW 'EM LIKE THE BACK'A MY HAND.

WHAT A JERK THAT JAKE WAS.

GUESS THE BIG LUG FORGOT ABOUT ONE CERTAIN CURVE ON THE BACK OF HIS HAND.

HOTEL BAR

BECAUSE HE DROVE OFF IT DOING BETTER THAN 65!

NO ONE SURVIVED THE SUDDEN STOP AT THE BOTTOM OF THE CLIFF.

NOT REALIZING THE EXTENT OF THANOS'S NEW MIGHT, A BEING CALLED THE *DESTROYER* AND I FOOLISHLY CONFRONTED THE TITAN.

IT ALMOST PROVED TO BE A *FATAL MIS-CALCULATION* ON OUR PART.

WE WERE BUT HELPLESS PUPPETS WITHIN HIS GRASP. HE TOYED WITH US, LAUGHING ALL THE TIME.

MY MUCH-LAUDED COSMIC MIGHT WAS NOTHING COMPARED TO THE POWER THANOS BRANDISHED.

THEN, WHEN HE FINALLY TIRED OF US, THE MAD TITAN USED THE POWER OF THE *SOUL GEM*...

...TO STEAL OUR *SPIRITUAL ESSENCE*.

WHEN WE AWOKE FROM THE ORDEAL, THE DESTROYER AND I FOUND OURSELVES WITHIN THE **METAPHYSICAL WORLD** OF THE **SOUL GEM.**

IT WAS THE MOST BIZARRE PLACE I HAVE EVER ENCOUNTERED.

IT WAS THERE THAT I MET A STRANGE AND ENIGMATIC MAN CALLED **ADAM WARLOCK,** APPARENTLY THE SPIRITUAL LEADER OF THE **SOULWORLD.**

ENCOUNTERING HIM WAS AN EXPERIENCE I'LL LONG REMEMBER.

IT WAS THROUGH A **SPELL** CAST BY HIM THAT THE DESTROYER AND I WERE ABLE TO RETURN TO THIS REALITY.

A HARROWING ESCAPE.

BY THE TIME WE REGAINED OUR BODIES, THANOS HAD **DEPARTED** TO AN UNKNOWN DESTINATION TO **CONSIDER** THE BEST USE HE COULD MAKE OF HIS NEW-FOUND **DIVINITY.**

WE WERE INFORMED OF THIS DEVELOPMENT BY MY LONGTIME ENEMY **MEPHISTO,** FOR REASONS ALL HIS OWN, AND WARNED THAT WE SHOULD **FORTIFY** OUR UNIVERSE AGAINST THE TITAN'S **INEVITABLE RETURN.**

I IMMEDIATELY SET OUT FOR **EARTH** TO SPREAD THE WORD OF APPROACHING DANGER BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, **MANY** AN EVENT KEPT ME FROM REACHING THIS WORLD UNTIL **NOW.**

I PRAY MY WARNING HAS NOT COME **TOO LATE.**

SO DO I!

I STAND IN *AWE* OF THANOS'S *MIGHT* AND HIS *ABILITY* TO WIELD IT AS IF IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN PART OF HIM.

*IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE THE TITAN WHISKS US OFF TO THE *HALL OF DEATH*, A REALM EVEN I HAVE NEVER DARED TRESPASS IN.

*AND IN A BLINDING FLASH OF EPIPHANY I REALIZE A MOST *DISTURBING TRUTH.*

EVEN ULTIMATE POWER DOES *NOT* MAKE YOU THE MASTER OF ALL YOU SURVEY.

*MISTRESS DEATH, MY LOVE, I HAVE *RETURNED.*

IT IS MY MOST *SINCERE HOPE* THAT YOU HAVE AT LAST *FORGIVEN* ME MY *DUPLICITY* IN GAINING THE INFINITY GEMS.

*IT WOULD APPEAR SHE *HASN'T.*

MY LORD, MY *SYMPATHIES.*

YOU ARE NOT DESERVING OF SUCH *BRUSQUE TREATMENT.*

NO.

I AM NOT.

THE BIG GUY WAITED UNTIL THE FIRES HAD COOLED SOME BEFORE SENDING US IN.

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN NICE OF HIM TO GIVE US SOME WARNING HE WAS MAKING HIS MOVE.

BUT NOOOO...

...THERE WAS THIS BLINDING FLASH, A FEELING OF VERTIGO AND...

...THE THREE OF US WERE IN OUR NEW HOMES...

...FOR BETTER...

...OR WORSE.

THIS BODY IS DEAD!

AND IT'S BEEN CHARBROILED!

IT'S A MESS!

I CAN'T GO WALKING AROUND LOOKING LIKE THIS!

YOU SHALL NOT HAVE TO.

MY POWERS ARE HEALING AND MODIFYING THESE HUSKS TO FIT OUR SPECIFIC NEEDS.

BUT THE TRANS-MUTATION WILL TAKE TIME.

WE WILL NEED A PLACE TO REST WHILE I COMPLETE MY HANDI-WORK.

MOTEL

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE IN LUCK.

THRIFTY MOTEL

I APPEAR TO BE THE LEAST DAMAGED OF THE THREE OF US--

--SO I SHALL ARRANGE FOR OUR LODGING. WAIT HERE FOR ME.

HEY, BABE, YOU OUGHT TO CHECK YOURSELF OUT IN THE MIRROR.

YOU'RE TURNING GREEN.

GREEN....

HOW NICE.

SO MUCH **POWER** IN THE **POSSESSION** OF ONE WHO HAS BARELY REACHED THE STATUS OF **GODLING.**

THE VERY **THOUGHT** BOGGLES THE MIND.

THANOS COULD DESTROY EVEN **ME** WITH BUT A **THOUGHT**, YET HIS BASIC SOUL REMAINS ON THE EDGE OF **MORTALITY.**

IS HE CAPABLE OF **MANAGING** THE FORCES NOW UNDER HIS COMMAND?

OR WILL HIS **FRAGILE HEART** BE HIS UNDOING?

DARLING MISTRESS, YOUR **SCORN** WOUNDS ME **DEEPLY.**

IT WAS **NEVER** MY INTENTION TO **WRONG** YOU NOR, DO I BELIEVE, I **HAVE.**

TRUE, I DID USE THE POWERS **YOU** GRANTED ME TO SEEK OUT THE INFINITY GEMS **TO BECOME** THE **SUPREME BEING** THAT NOW STANDS BEFORE YOU.

BUT I ONLY SOUGHT SUCH **GLORY** IN ORDER TO BE-COME **WORTHY** OF YOUR LOVE.

YOUR HEART DESERVES **BETTER** THAN THE **THRALL** I WAS.

I HAD NO OTHER CHOICE THAN TO BECOME YOUR EQUAL.

NOT EQUAL.

SUPERIOR.

NOW MISTRESS DEATH IS NOTHING MORE THAN YOUR LOVE SLAVE.

THAT WAS A POSITION YOU CHAFED IN.

BUT SHE IS THE KEEPER OF MY HEART!

HOW CAN SHE FIND SUCH STATUS ANY LESS STIFLING?

YOUR LOVE IS BONDAGE.

MY LOVE IS WORSHIP!

THE MISTRESS OF THE HALL OF DEATH HAS NO NEED FOR SYCOPHANTS.

NO!

YOU ARE WRONG! DEATH SHOULD BE REVERED!

SHRINES SHOULD BE BUILT TO HER!

YES...

...SHRINES...

"WHAT MERIT HAS *BEAUTY* BE IT NOT CHERISHED AND HONORED?

"HOW COULD I GAZE SO DEEPLY INTO MY LOVED ONE'S *SOUL* AND NOT BUILD *MONUMENTS* TO HER?

"I BE NOW A *DEITY*, YET FIRST I WAS A *MAN*.

"MY *ADORATION* FOR DEATH WAS THE ONLY *MORTAL TRAIT* WORTH BRINGING WITH ME TO THIS *LOFTY PLATEAU*.

"SO FAULT ME NOT FOR CELEBRATING THIS *FIERY PASSION* AND THE FOCUS OF SUCH *DEEP EMOTION*."

COME SIT AT MY SIDE, DEAREST ONE.

IN THE DEPTHS OF THE ETERNAL NIGHT YOU AND I ARE QUEEN AND KING!

OUR DOMAIN BE ALL THE UNIVERSE!

FROM THESE THRONES WE SHALL DECIDE THE FATE OF A MILLION SOLAR SYSTEMS AND ALL THAT INHABIT THEM!

FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT TOMORROW SHALL BE DESIGNED!

AS A TOKEN OF MY HEARTFELT ESTEEM, MISTRESS DEATH, I GIVE THEE ALL THAT IS!

STILL SHE SPURNS ME?!

PERHAPS IT IS BECAUSE SHE DOES NOT YET REALIZE THE TRUE STAGNANT DEPTHS YOUR BLACK SOUL IS CAPABLE OF ACHIEVING?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

MISTRESS DEATH IS A *DARK SPIRIT*, EBON IN HER WAYS.

HER MATE MUST BE OF A *LIKE BENT*.

ARE *YOU* UP TO SUCH A CHALLENGE?

AM I NOT *THANOS!*

DID I NOT *BUTCHER* THE WOMAN WHO GAVE ME *BIRTH*, WHO FORCE-FED ME INTO THIS *HELL* CALLED *LIFE?!*

IS NOT THE WAKE OF MY PASSING *CRIMSON* WITH THE BLOOD OF MY *ENEMIES* AND *ALLIES* ALIKE?!

DEATH IS WITH ME *EVERY SECOND* OF THE DAY!

MY EVERY MOMENT IS SPENT IN EITHER *DEALING OUT* DEATH OR *WORSHIPPING* IT!

SO TELL ME, *WHO* UNDER THE STARS IS BETTER SUITED THAN *I* TO BE *DEATH'S CONSORT?*

NO ONE.

BUT IT IS *NOT* I YOU NEED *PROVE* THIS TO.

YES... THAT IS WHAT MUST BE DONE.

IF *PROOF* OF MY *DEPRAVITY* IS WHAT IS NEEDED--

--SO *BE* IT!

"ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE TO YOU NEBULA--

"--MY GRAND-DAUGHTER.

"AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT SHE CLAIMS TO BE.

"SO I TOOK HER AT HER WORD AND MADE HER MY OWN."

FROM A VIGOROUS AND HEALTHY YOUNG THING I CREATED THAT WHICH NOW STANDS BEFORE YOU.

MY POWER AND SPIRIT SCULPTED NEBULA INTO WALKING DEATH.

BEHOLD, MISTRESS DEATH!

THANOS'S GREATEST CREATION!

LIMBS TWISTED, FLESH CHARRED AND CRACKED, AND NEARLY MINDLESS.

BY ALL RIGHTS THE WENCH SHOULD BE DEAD, BUT SHE YET LIVES.

SHE EXISTS ON A FINE LINE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH, A LIMBO OF SORTS.

MY UNEARTHLY POWER MAINTAINS HER BALANCE ON THIS PRECARIOUS PERCH.

NEBULA HAS NO HOPE OF *UNCONSCIOUSNESS* OR *TRUE DEATH* RELIEVING HER CONTINUOUS HORROR AND AGONY.

SHE IS MY LIVING TRIBUTE TO THE *BLASPHEMY* OF LIFE AND THE *GLORIOUS PROMISE* OF DEATH.

DO NOT TURN YOUR BACK TO ME, WOMAN!

TITAN, MISTRESS DEATH FINDS YOUR BOASTS *EMPTY* AND YOUR BRAVADO *DISTASTEFUL*.

I DO NOT COMPREHEND THIS *ATTITUDE* OF YOURS, MISTRESS.

ALL I SEEK IS YOUR *LOVE* AND *APPROVAL*.

BUT ALL I RECEIVE FOR MY HERCULEAN EFFORTS IS YOUR *DISDAIN*.

MISTRESS, YOU WILL *ADDRESS* ME *DIRECTLY* OR *NOT* AT ALL!

WHAT HAVE I *DONE* TO DESERVE SUCH *REJECTION?*

PERHAPS IT IS WHAT YOU *HAVEN'T DONE* THAT RILES THE MAIDEN.

OF COURSE.

SO ENGROSSED HAVE I BEEN IN *REVELING* IN MY NEWFOUND MIGHT THAT I HAVE BEEN *REMISS* IN FULFILLING THE *OBLIGATION* ACCEPTED DURING MY PAST LIFE!

MY LOVE BADE ME TO *EXTINGUISH* THE *LIGHT* OF HALF THE UNIVERSE'S POPULACE.

IT IS A TASK I HAVE YET TO *COMPLETE*.

HOW *INCONSIDERATE* OF ME.

MY BEHAVIOR HAS BEEN *INEXCUSABLE*. NO WONDER YOU HAVE BEEN *ANGRY* WITH ME.

A LOVER SHOULD ALWAYS FOLLOW THROUGH ON A *VOW* GIVEN.

HE'S REALLY GOING TO DO IT.

SNAP

BAGGED MYSELF A COUPLE BURGLARS AND THREE MUGGERS..

...A TYPICAL NIGHT'S WORK FOR YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR-HOOD SPIDER-MAN.

I WAS CALLING IT QUITS AND HEADING HOME WHEN...

...SOMETHING LIKE A WAVE OF VERTIGO HIT ME.

THEN THE OL' SPIDER SENSE WENT OFF LIKE IT NEVER HAD BEFORE.

IT FELT LIKE MY SKULL WAS GOING TO EXPLODE.

DECIDED TO COME IN FOR A LANDING UNTIL IT PASSED...

WHEN THE OL' HEAD CLEARED, I FOUND MYSELF STARING DOWN AT THE CROWD MILLING AROUND TIMES SQUARE.

EVEN AT THIS LATE HOUR THE PLACE WAS STILL JUMPING.

OPEN 24 HOURS

HOWARD J

COCKTAILS 'A

STAURANT

LIVE ACTS

GIRLS GALORE

WHY COULDN'T I HAVE KEPT MY EYES SHUT JUST A FEW SECONDS LONGER?

BUT I DIDN'T, SO I ENDED UP WITNESSING A SIGHT THAT I'M SURE WILL HAUNT MY DREAMS FOR YEARS TO COME.

THERE WAS NO OMINOUS WARNING: NOT ONE STORM CLOUD, HEAVENLY VOICE NOR ANY OF THE KIND OF THINGS YOU'D THINK WOULD ACCOMPANY SUCH A CATACLYSMIC EVENT.

NOTHING.

JUST HALF THE PEOPLE DOWN IN THE SQUARE MERELY VANISHED.

AT FIRST I THOUGHT I WAS LOSING MY MIND, FLIPPING OUT.

BUT THEN THE STREET CROWD CONFIRMED THE REALITY OF THIS NIGHTMARE.

CHARLIE?

WHERE'D YOU GO, CHARLIE?

MY BABY?!

WHO OR WHAT COULD HAVE DONE THIS?

HAD ONLY TIMES SQUARE BEEN AFFECTED?

OR WAS THIS HAPPENING ALL OVER THE CITY?

THEN IT HIT ME.

MARY JANE!

I'D JUST STOPPED BY AVENGERS HQ TO GO THROUGH SOME COMPUTER FILES INVOLVING A CASE I WAS WORKING ON.

EVERYTHING SEEMED PEACEFUL ENOUGH.

I SHOULD'VE KNOWN IT WOULDN'T LAST.

I DIDN'T EXPECT TO FIND HAWKEYE, IN FROM THE WEST COAST, KEEPING SERSI COMPANY DURING HER STINT ON MONITOR DUTY.

CAP-- I FOUND THAT FILE YOU WERE ASKING ABOUT.

Cap

THANKS, SERSI.

I WAS REACHING FOR THE FILE WHEN IT HAPPENED...

THEY WERE DISAPPEARING!

THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING I COULD DO.

NOTHING AT ALL.

THEY WERE GONE.

I FELT SO HELPLESS.

AND SCARED.

BECAUSE, DEEP DOWN INSIDE, I KNEW.

THIS WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING --

--THE BEGINNING OF SOMETHING THAT WAS DESTINED TO BECOME MUCH **BIGGER** AND MORE **HORRIBLE** THAN ANYTHING THE AVENGERS HAD EVER BEFORE FACED.

WHEN YOU'RE THE CHIEF HONCHO OF SHIELD YOU EXPECT IT TO HIT THE FAN OCCASIONALLY...

...BUT I NEVER FIGURED IT'D GET THIS BAD THIS QUICK.

NO, MR. PRESIDENT.

WE'RE STILL TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT HAPPENED.

YES, HALF MY CREW VANISHED ALSO, SIR.

WE'RE GETTING REPORTS FROM ALL OVER THE GLOBE.

AS SOON AS I KNOW, SIR, SO WILL YOU!

GOOD-BYE.

PSI-SECTION TELEMETRY SHOWS NOTHING, NICK.

TERRIFIC.

HALF THE HUMAN RACE JUST UP AND VANISHES--

"...AND THE WORLD'S GREATEST SPY NETWORK CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT CAUSED IT."

I GOT A NASTY FEELING ABOUT ALL THIS, VAL.

THIS ONE'S GOING TO BE BAD--REAL BAD.

NEW BULLETINS COMING IN INDICATE THAT *HUMANS* ARE *NOT* THE ONLY CREATURES FALLING VICTIM TO THE *GREAT DISAPPEARANCE.*

Smilin' Stan's BAR & GRILL

CATTLE *FARMERS* REPORT THAT HALF THEIR *HERDS* HAVE VANISHED.

INDEED, SCIENTISTS BELIEVE HALF OF ALL *ANIMAL LIFE* ON THE PLANET HAS DISAPPEARED ALONG WITH THE MISSING *HUMAN VICTIMS.*

MANY PET OWNERS HAVE...

SKREE-RAKK

I'VE HEARD *ENOUGH!*

SO IT'S HAPPENING EVERYWHERE. NOT JUST HERE ON BROADWAY, NOT JUST TO *RICK.* BUT THE *ABOMINATION* IS INVOLVED *SOMEHOW*-- SO THAT'S WHERE I START.

EXIT

REST ROOMS

WHEN I BECAME EMPRESS S'BYLL OF THE SKRULL EMPIRE I NEVER EXPECTED THE POST TO BE EASILY HANDLED...

BUT THIS IS FAR MORE THAN I EVER DREAMT I'D HAVE TO RECKON WITH-

FROM EVEN THE FARTHEST REACHES OF THE EMPIRE COME REPORTS OF MASSIVE DISAPPEARANCES.

I BELIEVE THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS OUTRAGE.

NONE WHATSOEVER.

ONLY OUR ANCIENT ENEMY WOULD DARE SUCH A BLATANT ACT OF AGRESSION!

THE KREE MUST PAY FOR THIS VILLAINOUS DEED WITH BLOOD!

LET THERE BE WAR!!

A SENSE OF GREAT UNEASE CAME UPON ME...

...ONE I COULD NOT EXPLAIN AWAY.

ALL OVER THE UNIVERSE!

I CAN FEEL THEM!

MASTER...

I FEEL...

WONG?

WHAT THE--?

BY HOGGOTH!

WONG!

THEY'RE ALL DYING!

BILLIONS UPON BILLIONS OF SOULS ARE BLINKING OUT OF EXISTENCE!!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

NOT A ONE KNEW WHAT STRUCK THEM!

HORRIBLE!

I COULD TASTE THEIR DREAD AND CONFUSION!

THEY ARE WITH... AND PART OF DEATH NOW.

JUST TOO MUCH... TO BEAR...

...TOO MUCH...

FEW KNOW THAT LIFE EXISTS ON SATURN'S MOON TITAN...

THERE, WITHIN THE BOWELS OF THE ARTIFICIAL SATELLITE, LIVES A RACE OF DEMI-GODS IN A PEACEFUL PARADISE.

IT IS THE HOME OF THE TITANS.

MY HOME.

AND SO, I URGED MY FRIEND FIRE-LORD TO RETURN WITH ME TO TITAN.

DEAR MENTOR, I FEEL HE WOULD BE OF GREAT SERVICE TO US IN ANY FUTURE STRUGGLE AGAINST EVIL THANOS.

I AM MOST CERTAIN HE WOULD, SON EROS.

I HAVE HEARD MUCH ABOUT YOU, FRIEND FIRELORD, AND WELCOME YOU--

WHAT?

FATHER?

FATHER!

TH--THIS BE NOT... MY DOING... EMERALD ONE...

WHAT FIREHEAD DO TO OLD MAN??

YES, STAY THY HAND, DESTROYER.

Attention! Attention!

Priority alert!

WHAT IS IT, ISSAC?

REPORTING PLANETWIDE PHENOMENON. HALF OF POPULATION HAS SUDDENLY VANISHED WITHOUT TRACE.

I CURRENTLY HAVE NO EXPLANATION FOR THE OCCURRENCE.

THANOS.

THANOS.

THANOS.

I THINK WE WERE ALL ADJUSTING PRETTY WELL TO OUR NEW BODS...

I'D LOST MY BRICKETTE LOOK AND...

...THE BABE WAS KEEPING BUSY STITCHING TOGETHER A NEW OUTFIT...

IT SEEMS STRANGE HAVING TO DO SOMETHING LIKE SEWING AGAIN.

THIRTY

I LIKE BEING BACK, MYSELF.

I MISSED THIS REALITY WITH ALL ITS DIFFERENT PLACES TO GO, THINGS TO DO...

...PEOPLE TO ANNOY, AND--

HEY!

MOTEL

...TASTES TO SAVOR...

WHERE YA GO?!

GONE!

OF COURSE I KEPT MY HEAD STRAIGHT, DIDN'T PANIC-

HELP!

HELP!

SHE JUST WENT AND VANISHED!!

IT'S NOT MY FAULT!

YOU GOTTA DO SOME-THIN' AND--

OH, NO.

A FAT LOTTA HELP YOU'RE GONNA BE...

NEXT ISSUE > FROM BAD TO WORSE!

MARVEL COMICS

2
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APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

THE INFINITY GAUNTLET

ALL IS RIGHT IN THE HEAVENS FOR THANOS POSSESSES THE SIX INFINITY GEMS.

THE UNIVERSE WILL NOW BE SET RIGHT.

MADE OVER TO FIT MY UNIQUE VIEW OF WHAT SHOULD BE.

LET NIHILISM REIGN SUPREME!

Stan Lee presents

The INFINITY GAUNTLET

FROM BAD TO WORSE

FLIGHT 807 WAS CIRCLING FOR CLEARANCE TO LAND WHEN...

...THE GREAT DISAPPEARANCE STRUCK. IT TOOK OUT BOTH THE PILOT AND CO-PILOT.

THE JET FINALLY RAN OUT OF FUEL AND AUGERED IN ONTO FIFTH AVENUE. A PRETTY CLEAN HIT REALLY.

THOSE PASSENGERS WERE LUCKY THE AVENGERS WERE ON HAND TO HELP OUT.

AND LUCKIER STILL THAT THOR WAS PASSING BY.

BUT WE CAN'T BE EVERYWHERE AND THE WHOLE WORLD'S CURRENTLY ONE BIG EMERGENCY!

JUST HANG IN THERE, FOLKS!

WE'RE COMING!

I HAVE A SERIOUSLY INJURED WOMAN IN FIRST CLASS.

IT'S TOO MUCH VIZ! NOT EVEN THE AVENGERS CAN HANDLE WHAT'S COMING DOWN!

BUT WE MUST TRY, SHE-HULK.

WE CANNOT SURRENDER TO DESPAIR.

writer	penciler	inker
JIM STARLIN	GEORGE PEREZ	JOSEF RUBINSTEIN
letterer	**colorist**	**editor**
JACK MORELLI	MAX SCHEELE	CRAIG ANDERSON
editor-in-chief	TOM DEFALCO	

WHEN THE FIRST REPORTS OF THE GREAT DISAPPEARANCE COME IN, I'M IN MY OFFICE AT VAUGHN SECURITY SYSTEMS, WONDERING WHAT I CAN DO TO HELP.

FIGURE EPOCH MIGHT HAVE SOME ANSWERS...

...BUT BEFORE I CAN ASK HIM...

JOIN US, MY CHAMPION...

EPOCH?

WHO'S THAT IN THERE WITH YOU?

ONE WHO HAS MADE CLEAR TO ME JUST HOW PERILOUS THIS UNIVERSE'S CURRENT SITUATION IS!

AND SO...

...THE COSMIC GUARDIAN, QUASAR, MUST NOW UNDERTAKE A NEW MISSION!

WE'VE AN ASTRAL RENDEZVOUS TO ARRANGE...!

SHIP'S LOG: CAPTAIN DEA-SEA REPORTING.

BULLETINS CONTINUE TO FLOOD IN FROM ALL OVER THE KREE EMPIRE.

HALF OF OUR PEOPLE HAVE MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED.

THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS OUTRAGE.

THIS TRAGEDY REEKS OF SKRULL TREACHERY.

THE ENTIRE FLEET HAS BEEN PUT ON RED ALERT STATUS.

WE GO TO JOIN THE ARMADA.

THE WAR TO END ALL WARS BEGINS.

GLORY TO THE KREE EMPIRE--!

THE CONDITION OF MY UNEXPECTED HOUSE GUEST WAS SUCH I THOUGHT IT PRUDENT TO SEEK AN OUTSIDE CONSULTATION ON THE MATTER.

FORTUNATELY DR. HENRY PYM HAPPENED TO BE IN TOWN.

THE SURFER SEEMS TO BE REGAINING HIS STRENGTH JUST BY LYING IN THE SUN.

WITH HIS ALIEN PHYSIOLOGY, IT WAS THE BEST REMEDY I COULD COME UP WITH.

WELL, IT APPEARS TO BE WORKING.

I MUST BE GOING NOW, STEPHEN.

I SHOULD BE WITH THE WEST COAST AVENGERS, WHAT WITH THIS GREAT DISAPPEARANCE GOING DOWN.

I'LL BRIEF THEM ON WHAT YOU'VE TOLD ME.

YOU'D BEST CONTACT THE ORIGINAL AVENGERS DIRECTLY.

OF... OF COURSE.

OF... COURSE...

MASTER?

IS SOMETHING WRONG?

MASTER--?

"SPEAK TO ME!"

DR. STRANGE...
CAN...
YOU...
HEAR...
ME..?
YES.
THOUGH I'VE NEVER BEFORE BEEN CONTACTED *QUITE* IN THIS *MANNER.*
WHO *ARE* YOU?
ONE WHO *MAY* BE ABLE TO *SAVE* YOUR REALITY FROM THE *INSANITY* THAT IS *THANOS.*
THE *ONLY HOPE* YOUR UNIVERSE HAS IS THE BANDING OF ALL *CHAMPIONS* OF *RIGHTEOUSNESS* UNDER ONE LEADER.
THEN YOUR *FIRST TASK* IS TO CONVINCE THEM OTHERWISE.
BUT I *CANNOT* DO IT *ALONE.*
I MUST BE THAT *LEADER.*
I DOUBT EARTH'S DEFENDERS WILL *BLINDLY FOLLOW* SOMEONE WHO JUST *POPPED* UP OUT OF *NOWHERE.*
YOU ARE A *STRANGER* TO ME, CREATURE; ONE I, MYSELF, SEE NO REASON TO *TRUST.*

THERE IS A METHOD BY WHICH THAT OBSTACLE TO PROGRESS CAN BE OVERCOME.

I COULD OPEN MY SOUL TO YOU.

BUT IN DOING SO, YOUR SOUL WOULD BE BARED TO ME.

IT'S NOT AN EXPERIENCE I WOULD NORMALLY OPT FOR.

BUT THE DANGER THAT CONFRONTS US IS TOO GREAT.

BE WARNED, THOUGH.

I MUST TAKE THE RISK.

IF I SENSE ANY TREACHERY, YOU SHALL LEARN TO YOUR DISMAY...

WHY I AM KNOWN AS THE MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS.

SO BE IT.

A MELDING OF SOULS.

ENOUGH!

I DIDN'T REALIZE...

...THE THINGS YOU'VE SEEN...

...ALL SO CLEAR TO ME NOW.

MASTER, WITH WHOM DO YOU SPEAK?

YOU NOW HAVE MY COMPLETE TRUST.

I WILL AID YOU ANY WAY I CAN.

MY INSTRUMENTS INDICATE THAT THE FORCE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GREAT DISAPPEARANCE ORIGINATED ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE GALAXY.

I HAVE NEVER BEFORE ENCOUNTERED SUCH POWERFUL READINGS!

YET I'M PICKING UP SIMILAR EMANATIONS FROM A SMALL TOWN IN UPSTATE NEW YORK.

ODDER STILL...

...THESE TRANSMISSIONS ARE BEING DIRECTED TO THE HOME OF DR. STEPHEN STRANGE-

WHAT IS THE CONNECTION?

THIS IS A QUESTION I MUST HAVE ANSWERED.

FOR THIS IS MY UNIVERSE. THESE ARE MY PEOPLE DISAPPEARING.

AND NO ONE SHOULD DARE TAMPER WITH WHAT BELONGS TO DOCTOR DOOM!

PLUS, THERE IS THE FACT THAT GREAT DISASTERS OF THIS MAGNITUDE ALSO PRESENT A CURIOUS INTELLECT WITH GREAT OPPORTUNITY.

A CHANCE TO EXPAND ON MY SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE AND...

...PERSONAL POWER.

THINGS GOING BAD ON TITAN.

DESTROYER NOT SURE WHAT HAPPENIN'-

OL' MAN MENTOR GOES BYE-BYE, AND THEN...

SUB-SPACE TRANSMISSIONS INDICATE THAT THIS MASS DISAPPEARANCE IS A UNIVERSAL PHENOMENON.

HALF THE GALAXY'S POPULATION BLINKED OUT OF EXISTENCE...

A LOTTA DEAD PEOPLE.

HORRIBLE.

I'M NOT SURE HOW HE DID THIS, BUT I'M POSITIVE THIS IS MY BROTHER THANOS'S DOING-

IF I COULD...

EROS...?

EROS!

FIRST MENTOR DISAPPEARS...

...NOW EROS VANISHES!

HUH?

WHAT'S NEXT?

DON'T FIREHEAD MEAN... WHO'S NEXT?

I'VE BEEN IN MANY A DIFFICULT SITUATION IN MY LIFE.

BUT I KNOW THE VERY MO-MENT I OPENED MY EYES...

...THAT THIS IS A WHOLE NEW COSMIC LEVEL OF TROUBLE.

I IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZE THE LEGENDARY INFINITY GEMS MY BROTHER WEARS AS THE SOURCE OF HIS NEWFOUND MIGHT.

AND IF THAT WEREN'T BAD ENOUGH, A FEW FEET AWAY STANDS POWER-FUL MEPHISTO. THE DEVIL, YOU SAY?

YES, SIR, I'M INTO IT UP TO MY EARS THIS TIME.

AND THERE IS MISTRESS DEATH, A REGAL SIGHT I'D HOPED NEVER TO SEE.

IT TAKES ME A WHILE TO REALIZE WHO THE STUMBLING WRECK WANDERING ABOUT IS--

-THANOS'S GRAND-DAUGHTER, NEBULA.

SHE'S A REAL MESS.

'TIS A FAMILY REUNION', MY DEAR BROTHER.

LET THE OLD, NEBULA AND YOURSELF, GREET AND BEFRIEND THE NEW, MY LOVER AND MATE-- DEATH.

MEPHISTO IS BUT AN ADVISER.

BUT BROTHER THANOS, HOW CAN THIS BE A FAMILY REUNION WITHOUT FATHER BEING PRESENT?

MENTOR WAS NOT INVITED--

--NOR WILL HE BE.

FATHER WAS A DANGEROUS MAN...WHICH IS WHY I MADE SURE HE WAS AMONG THE DIS-APPEARED.

HE WOULD HAVE TRIED TO ABORT MY VISION OF THE FUTURE.

I COULD NOT ALLOW THAT-

ULTIMATE POWER IS NOW MINE AND I SHALL RESHAPE THE UNIVERSE WITH IT-

NOTHING MUST INTERFERE WITH THIS HOLY MISSION.

THEN NOTHING SHALL.

EVERYTHING IS GOING TO WORK OUT JUST THE WAY YOU WANT IT TO, MY BROTHER.

AND IF THERE IS ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP...

LIKE USING YOUR EMOTION MANIPU-LATING POWERS ON ME?

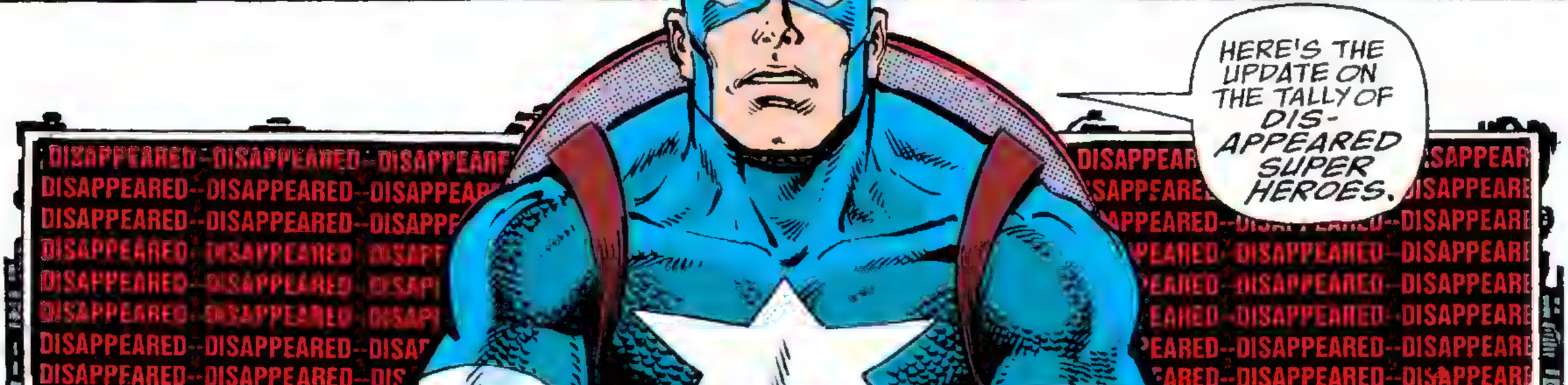
WHAT SAY WE SEE HOW CHARMING YOU CAN BE, EROS--

--WITHOUT YOUR MOUTH!

THAT IS HOW IT SHALL BE WITH ALL THINGS THAT IRRITATE PROUD THANOS!

"ANNOYANCES WILL SIMPLY CEASE TO BE."

ARCHANGEL
BEAST
BLACK CAT
BLACK PANTHER
BOX
DAGGER
DAREDEVIL
DIAMOND LIL
FIRESTAR
GUARDIAN
HAWKEYE
HERCULES
HUMAN TORCH
ICEMAN
INVISIBLE WOMAN
MAKKARI
MARVEL BOY
MARVEL GIRL
MR. FANTASTIC
NIGHT THRASHER
NORTHSTAR
POWER MAN
PUCK
QUICKSILVER
SASQUATCH
SERSI
SHAMAN
THING
USAGENT
VINDICATOR
WASP
WINDSHEAR



STILL NO WORD ON THE X-MEN OR EXCALIBUR?

NO. MAYBE THEY'RE OFF THE PLANET.

FEEL CRUMMY DOING THIS, BUT...

...EVEN IN THE MIDST OF THIS CHAOS I'VE GOT TO COVER THAT I'M **NOT** THE ORIGINAL THOR!

I FOUGHT BY THE SIDE OF MANY OF THOSE FALLEN-

THEY SHALT BE MOURNED DEEPLY.

THIS IS BAD.

REAL BAD.

IT DOESN'T GET ANY WORSE.

YOU SURE ABOUT THAT CAP...?

NO REPLY

"YOU ABSOLUTELY SURE?"

I, GREAT ODIN, DIDST WITNESS HALF MY PEOPLE VANISH IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE.

THE CEREMONIAL EYEPATCH OF SORROW DID I IMMEDIATELY DON-

AND I DID LOOK ABOUT AND SEE THIS CATASTROPHE WAS A UNIVERSAL PLAGUE.

WHICH IS WHY I DID SUMMON YOU TO ASGARD, MY FELLOW SKY-FATHERS.

EACH OF YOU IS THE SUPREME LEADER OF A POPULATION OF DEITIES AND A MIGHTY POWER IN YOUR OWN RIGHT.

TEZCATLIPOCA, THE AZTEC DEITY.

ZEUS, OF OLYMPUS.

THE MAYAN GOD, ITZAMNA.

OSIRIS, OF EGYPT.

SVAROG, OF RUSSIA.

MANITOU, AN AMERICAN INDIAN SPIRIT.

THE CELTIC GOD, NUADA.

MY MYSTIC SENSES DO WARN THAT THE PERIL WE FACE IS OF SUCH IMMENSE POWER...

"...THAT IT SHALL TAKE OUR COMBINED MIGHT TO OVERCOME IT."

I FEEL THE SAME.

DA.

THEN LET IT BE AGREED THAT WE SHALT FACE OUR ENEMY AS A UNITED FIGHTING FORCE.

AND LET OUR FOE BEWARE.

WE ARE WITH YOU, BROTHER ODIN.

THE SKY-FATHERS STAND AS ONE!

2000 LIGHT YEARS FROM EARTH.

WELL, WE'RE HERE.

NOW WHAT?

NOW WE WAIT PATIENTLY.

WAIT FOR WHAT?

FOR THE MOMENT TO HAPPEN.

I'M STILL COOLIN' MY HEELS IN THAT ROACH-MOTEL, WAITIN' FOR THE BOSS MAN TO MAKE HIS GRAND RE-TURN FROM THE LAND OF SLEEPIN'-BAG COCOONS.

LUCKILY, I FINALLY FOUND A CHANNEL ON THE BOOB TUBE THAT WASN'T OBSESSED WITH FILLIN' EVERY SECOND OF AIR TIME WITH COVERAGE ON THE GREAT DISAPPEAR-ANCE.

THRIFTY MOTEL

MOTEL

WHO WOULD'A THOUGHT THIS PLANET CAPABLE OF SUCH HIGH-BROW ENTERTAIN-MENT?

ALSO LIKE THE WAY THEY BREW THEIR ROTGUT HERE.

BEER'S ALWAYS PLAYED A BIG PART IN THE LIFE OF PIP THE TROLL.

SURE, MAYBE THE REST OF THE UNIVERSE'S GOIN' DOWN THE TUBES.

BUT AS LONG AS I HAVE A GOOD SMOKE, A FEW BREWSKIS AND SOME MUNCHIES, MY WORLD'S OKAY.

RIPPLES

POTA CHIPS

UNFORTUNATELY, THE BEST PARTIES ALWAYS END TOO EARLY.

HEY!

GOTTA HAND IT TO HIM, THOUGH...

...THE GUY REALLY KNOWS HOW TO MAKE AN ENTRANCE.

A REAL SHOW-STOPPER.

OKAY, MISTER PARTY-POOPER, YOU FIXED IT SO WE CAN'T STAY HERE ANYMORE.

WHERE WE HEADED NOW?

AFTER THANOS!

TERRIFIC.

JUST WHAT I WANTED TO HEAR.

AT THE BEST OF TIMES...

...IS A JARRING, DISORIENTING EXPERIENCE.

...THE RESUMPTION OF LOST CONSCIOUSNESS...

BUT AT A MOMENT LIKE THIS...

WHAT?

...IT CAN BE DEVASTATING.

DR. STRANGE...?

DR. DOOM?

I WARN YOU, DOOM, YOU MEDDLE IN DANGEROUS MATTERS YOU DO NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND!

THEN YOU SHALL ENLIGHTEN ME OR SUFFER FURTHER DISCOMFORT AT MY SERVANT'S HANDS.

DOOM! UNHAND MY COMRADE!!

OR I SHALL--

FALL VICTIM TO A SUPERIOR INTELLECT AND POWER AS YOU DID IN OUR LAST ENCOUNTER!

WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT I DID, BEING TERRIBLY *WEAKENED* FROM MY EARLIER BATTLE WITH THANOS'S *STONE GOLEM*.

FURTHER *TIME* WAS NEEDED FOR MY *STRENGTH* TO RENEW ITSELF.

NOW, STRANGE, YOU WILL BRIEF ME ON *EVERY-THING* YOU KNOW...

...OF THE *GREAT DISAPPEARANCE* AND THE *FORCES* BEHIND IT--!

YOU SHALL SPEAK...

...OR I WILL--

THERE IS *NO NEED* TO THREATEN ANYONE, MY GOOD DOCTOR.

IT WILL BE MY *PLEASURE* TO TELL YOU EVERYTHING YOU WISH TO KNOW.

INTRUDER, *WHO ARE YOU?*

IN MY TIME, MANY CALLED ME

ADAM WARLOCK.

YOU MAY DO SO ALSO, IF YOU FEEL SO INCLINED.

"A MAN WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN *KILLED* NEARLY A *DECADE* AGO WHILE BATTLING THANOS."

NOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND, MY DEAR...

...THE PLEASURES OF HAVING FAMILY VISIT?

AMUSING, AREN'T THEY?

MISTRESS DEATH DOESN'T APPEAR TO THINK SO.

Eh?

WELL, THAT SITUATION CAN BE EASILY REMEDIED.

"NEW ENTERTAINMENT CAN BE DEVISED."

BY THE HEAVENS!

THANOS'S NEWLY ACQUIRED POWER HAS OBVIOUSLY DERANGED HIM!

HE'S GONE COMPLETELY INSANE!

IN HIS CURRENT STATE OF MIND, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.

HE MIGHT, ON A WHIM, EVEN DESTROY THE UNIVERSE!

"...AND THAT IS HOW THANOS GAINED HIS VAST POWER AND I CAME TO AID IN THE THWARTING OF HIS MAD SCHEMES.

THEN YOU ARE THE ENTITY I COMMUNICATED WITH EARLIER!

AN AMAZING STORY AND A PERIL THAT RIVALS THE COMING OF THE BEYONDER!

IT IS A CHALLENGE WE MUST MEET AND TRIUMPH OVER.

THERE IS BUT ONE WAY THIS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED.

I MUST LEAD THE FORCES OF SANITY AGAINST THE MAD TITAN.

BY WHAT RIGHT DO YOU CLAIM THE MANTLE OF LEADERSHIP?!

A MAN WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN KILLED NEARLY A DECADE AGO--WHILE BATTLING THANOS!

PERHAPS. BUT I ALONE AM FAMILIAR WITH THE SECRET WORKINGS OF THE INFINITY GEMS.

THAT KNOWLEDGE IS THIS UNIVERSE'S ONLY HOPE.

A BANNER I WILL GLADLY STAND BEHIND.

WHAT SAY YOU, SURFER?

TIS BETTER THAN FOLLOWING DOOM.

THEN RAISE YOUR ARMY AND WE SHALL SEE WHAT COMES OF IT.

BUT IS WARLOCK TRULY THE BEST CHOICE?

HE SEEMS MARKEDLY DIFFERENT FROM THE MAN I MET ON SOUL-WORLD.

THERE'S SO LITTLE ANYONE REALLY KNOWS ABOUT HIM.

HOW CAN WE BE CERTAIN?

IS THIS IMPROVISATION MORE TO YOUR LIKING, MY LOVE?

WHAT?!

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO PLEASE YOU?!

I HAVE GIVEN YOU YOUR EVERY WISH AND THE UNIVERSE TO BOOT!

YET STILL YOU DENY ME EVEN THE SLIGHTEST OF SMILES!

I STRIVE ONLY FOR YOUR AFFECTION AND APPROVAL!

I WOULD DO ANYTHING TO JUST ONCE HEAR YOU SPEAK MY NAME ALOUD!

ANYTHING!!

THE DARK GOD'S ANGER AND FRUSTRATION ARE AWESOME IN FORCE.

THE PSYCHIC WAVE OF POWER RISES FROM THE STELLAR MONUMENT OF LOVE AND WASHES OUT INTO THE ETHER.

THE FIRST HEAVENLY BODY TO ENCOUNTER THE WAVE IS A 20,000,000 YEAR OLD RED GIANT STAR.

EVERY LAW OF NATURE REVOLTS AGAINST THIS JEWEL'S CONTINUED EXISTENCE.

ITS END IS BREATHTAKING.

YET IT IS BUT ONE OF MANY THAT WILL FALL BEFORE THE WRATH OF THANOS... THE SUPREME BEING OF THIS UNIVERSE AND REALITY.

A PLANET I WAS ABOUT TO CONSUME CRUMBLES BENEATH THE TITAN'S RAGE.

THE SECOND BANQUET OF WHICH HE HAS CHEATED ME.

YET, I KEEP MY ANGER IN CHECK.

I HAVE TO...

FOR I REALIZE THAT EVEN MY STAGGERING MIGHT IS NOTHING COMPARED TO THE NEAR INFINITE POWER THANOS NOW WIELDS.

BUT THINK NOT THAT GALACTUS PLANS TO TURN TAIL AND RUN FROM THIS UPSTART DEMI-GOD.

GALACTUS IS A BEING OF POWER AND INTELLECT.

PLANS MUST BE CONCEIVED AND ALLIANCES FORMED.

ONLY THEN MAY I SAVOR THE COLD FEAST OF VENGEANCE.

THE READINGS ON THANOS'S DESTRUCTIVE PSYCHIC EMANATIONS ARE ASTOUNDING--

--THE WAVE DEVASTATES NEARLY A QUARTER OF THE GALAXY.

IT WILL ONLY BE AT 2% OF ITS PEAK STRENGTH WHEN IT HITS THAT PLANET NORRIN RADD ONCE TALKED ME OUT OF CONSUMING.

THE ONE CALLED EARTH.

I AM LOST.

DAGGER IS GONE.

HOW CAN I GO ON?

THE TRUTH IS I HAVE NO REASON TO.

THE LADY AND I WERE LINKED IN SO MANY WAYS, TWO HALVES OF A WHOLE.

I AM BETTER OFF DEAD.

I CAN NEVER--

WHAT!?

GOOD GOD.

YOU SAVED OUR LIVES!

THAT'S RIGHT, LADY...

BUT IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF I DID YA ANY REAL FAVOR.

I'M HOVERING ON THE EDGE OF SPACE IN A SPECIALLY CONSTRUCTED *IRON MAN* RIG... TRYING TO GET SOME BETTER READINGS ON CERTAIN OFF-PLANET *ENERGY SIGNALS.*

I SUSPECT THEY HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE *GREAT DISAPPEARANCE.*

SUDDENLY, EVERY GAUGE OF THE SENSOR UNIT *RED LINES.*

WHAT?

THE *FORCE WAVE* HITS ME LIKE A *RUNAWAY TRAIN.*

IT SHORTS *EVERY CIRCUIT* IN THE SUIT.

FORTUNATELY, MY BACK-UP SYSTEM'S ABLE TO KICK IN.

THAT'S WHEN I SEE IT.

FROM THIS ALTITUDE IT'S QUITE A SIGHT, ONE THAT WILL SURELY GIVE ME NIGHT-MARES FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.

HELPLESSLY I WATCH AS THE ENTIRE WESTERN COAST OF THE UNITED STATES BREAKS OFF AND FALLS INTO THE OCEAN.

I KNOW THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO TO HELP...

...BUT I HAVE TO TRY.

I PICK UP ON AN AVENGERS QUINJET ON THE WAY DOWN.

WE WERE COMING IN FOR A LANDING WHEN IT *HIT*.

THERE WAS *NOTHING* WE COULD DO.

NOTHING.

THERE WERE *MILLIONS* OF PEOPLE IN *CALIFORNIA* ALONE.

THEY'RE ALL *GONE*.

WE JUST COULDN'T SAVE THEM.

IT WAS... ALL OF A SUDDEN... LIKE THE *END* OF THE *WORLD*.

THERE WAS TRULY NO METHOD AVAILABLE TO PREDICT THE APPROACH OF THANOS'S DESTRUCTIVE PSYCHIC ONSLAUGHT.

HOW WAS I TO KNOW HOW DEVASTATING IT WOULD PROVE TO BE?

ONE MOMENT BEAUTIFUL ASGARD SAT PEACEFULLY, A JEWEL IN THE HEAVENS.

A MERE MOMENT LATER THE HOME OF THE PROUD NORSE GODS WAS TORN ASUNDER...

...ITS SPIRES TOPPLED...

...THE RAINBOW BRIDGE SHATTERED.

DOST THOU FEEL THE CHANGE?

AYE, 'TWAS NO SIMPLE EARTH-QUAKE.

THE TURMOIL HAS WROUGHT INTER-DIMENSIONAL CHANGES!

THE SPACE/TIME CONTINUUM HAS SHIFTED!

WE HATH BEEN CUT OFF FROM MIDGARD AND ITS REALITY!

WE ARE TRAPPED ON ASGARD!

UNABLE TO RETURN AND PROTECT OUR HOMES!

BLAME NOT YOURSELF, MY BROTHER.

THERE WAS NO WAY YOU COULD HAVE KNOWN.

AYE, I REALIZE THIS...

YET...

...STILL MY HEART AND SOUL DAMN ME FOR A FOOL.

I FELT THE *TREMORS* AND TRACED THEM ACROSS THE *ATLANTIC OCEAN* FLOOR TO THEIR SOURCE.

WHAT I DISCOVERED WAS THE *INCREDIBLE.*

NOT EVEN I, *NAMOR* THE *SUB-MARINER,* HAVE EVER SEEN SUCH A MAGNIFICENT SIGHT.

BUT THEN MY *AWE* IS TEMPERED BY THE *REALIZATION* THAT THE CREATION OF THESE ISLES WILL HAVE *CATA-CLYSMIC RESULTS.*

THERE WILL BE *TIDAL WAVES,* PROBABLY EVEN NOW HEADING TOWARD THE EASTERN COAST OF THE *UNITED STATES.*

NAMORITA'S THE NAME.

IT'S BY SHEER CHANCE THAT I'M FLYING OVER ATLANTIC CITY.

IT'S EARLY MORNING, AND A YOUNG COUPLE WALK ALONG THE BOARDWALK, ALONE.

PROBABLY HONEY-MOONERS.

THEY HEAR THE ROAR...

...AND LOOK UP TO SEE APPROACHING DEATH.

THE WAVE IS NEARLY A QUARTER MILE HIGH.

THERE'LL BE NO ESCAPING IT.

EAT AT MANNY WOLF'S

TRUMP

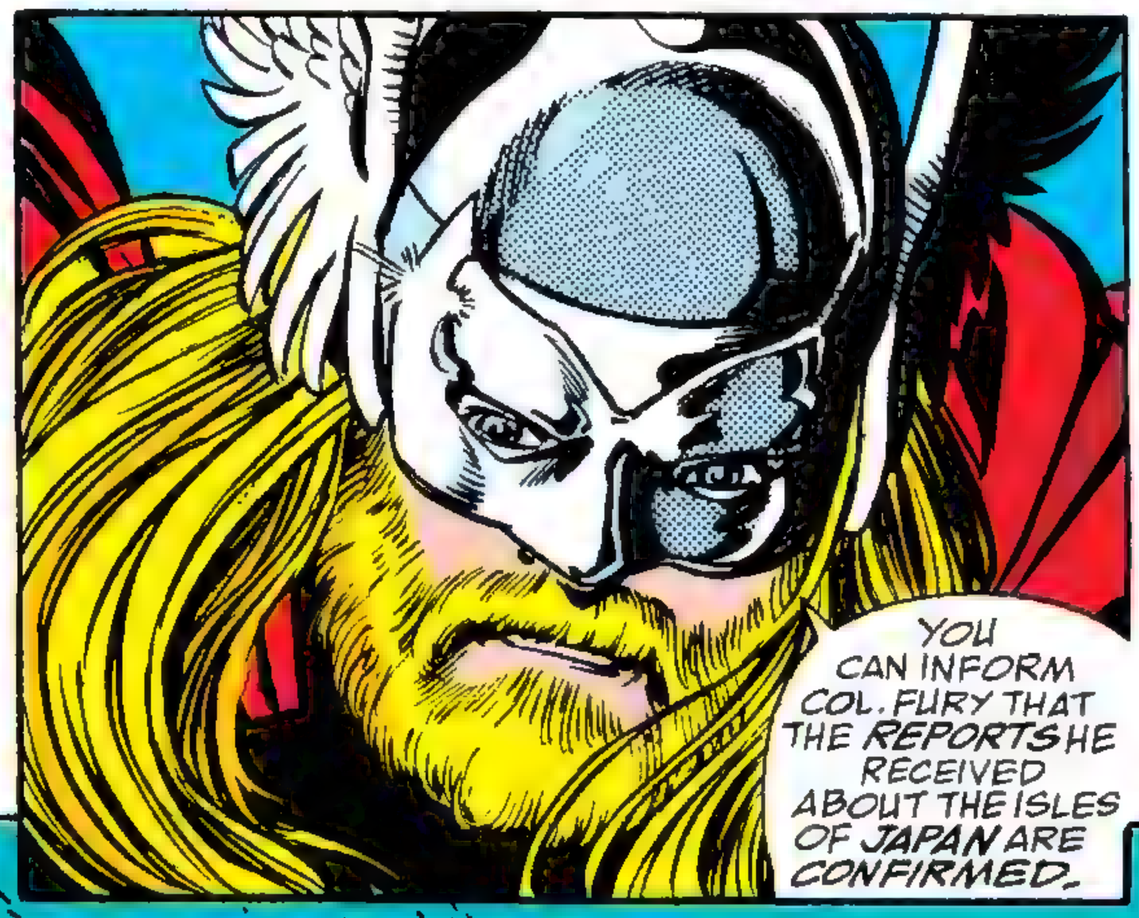
BALLY

THE YOUNG LOVERS ARE THE ONLY TWO PEOPLE I MANAGE TO SAVE-

TODAY

CAKE SALE

IT'S THOR CALLING AVENGERS HEAD-QUARTERS.


YOU CAN INFORM COL. FURY THAT THE REPORTS HE RECEIVED ABOUT THE ISLES OF JAPAN ARE CONFIRMED.

THEY ARE NO MORE.

THANK WINGHEAD FOR THE RECON WHEN HE RETURNS.

HOW'D AVENGERS' HQ HOLD UP TO THE QUAKE?

CRACKED, BUT STILL STANDING.

THANK GOD FOR NEW YORK BEDROCK.

WE'RE GEARING UP TO BE THE COM-CENTER FOR ANY PARANORMALS WHO WISH TO HELP DURING THE CRISIS!

GOOD MOVE. I'LL SPREAD THE WORD. OUT.

VISION, WHAT ABOUT OUR WEST COAST BRANCH?

I'M ACCESSING THEM NOW, CAPTAIN-

WANDA? PROGRESS REPORT?

WE'RE SETTING UP HOUSE IN VEGAS, CALLING IN THE RESERVES.

SAME HERE.

WE'RE GOING TO NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET.

THINGS ARE GETTING PRETTY UGLY OUT THERE.

IT APPEARS EVERYONE FARED *FAIRLY WELL*, THANKS TO DR. STRANGE'S HASTILY CAST *SPELL OF PROTECTION*.

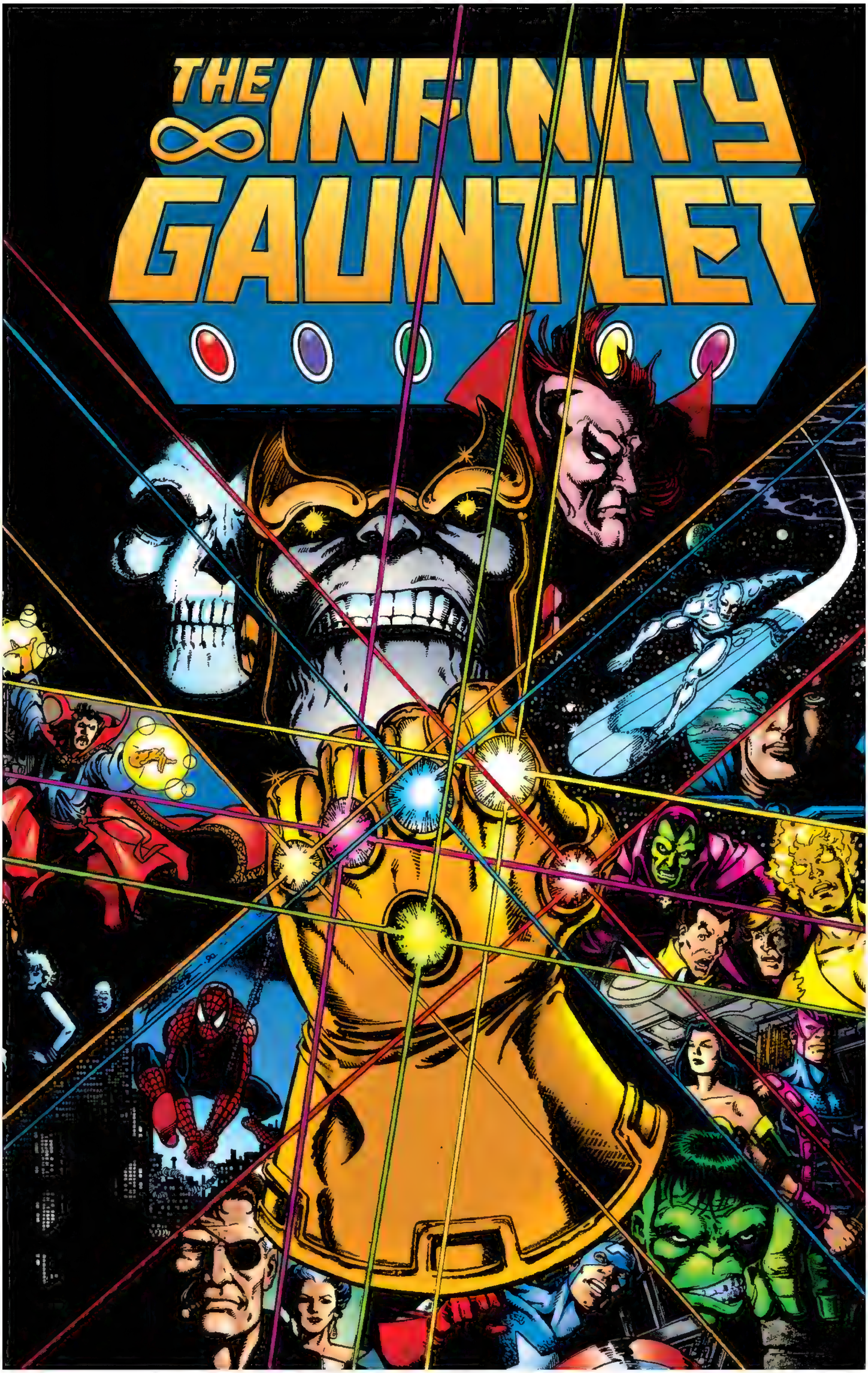
WHAT WAS THAT?

OBVIOUSLY AN EARTH-QUAKE.

SOMETHIN' GOT *GOD* TEED OFF.

EXACTLY.

NEXT: PREPARATIONS FOR WAR!



***INFINITY GAUNTLET TPB* (4TH PRINTING, 2001) COVER** BY GEORGE PÉREZ

MARVEL® COMICS

3 SEPT

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THE INFINITY GAUNTLET™

CALL TO ARMS!

50 YEARS OF CAPTAIN AMERICA 1941 – 1991

GEORGE PÉREZ

STAN LEE PRESENTS

THE INFINITY GAUNTLET

INFINITE POWER AT PLAY.

AN EGO GONE WILD.

DEPRAVED CREATIVITY.

TELL ME TRULY MEPHISTO.

BE IT OR BE IT NOT ART MOST MAGNIFICENT?

PREPARATIONS FOR WAR

JIM STARLIN WRITER

GEORGE PÉREZ PENCILS

JOE RUBINSTEIN INKS

SCHEELE & LAUGHLIN COLORS

JACK MORELLI LETTERS

CRAIG ANDERSON EDITOR

TOM DeFALCO CHIEF

YES! WE'RE ALL STILL HERE!!

IT IS A MASTER-PIECE, LORD THANOS AND A MONUMENT TO THE COSMIC WONDER THAT IS YOU.

BUT I DOUBT THIS OPINION BE HELD BY THE INHABITANTS OF THE WORLDS YOU PURLOINED TO CREATE THIS WONDER.

THEIR VIEWS MATTER NOT TO ME.

BUT I FEAR, DEAR THANOS, THAT IT IS A VIEW MISTRESS DEATH APPARENTLY SHARES.

WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO WIN HER HEART?

WHAT?

EARTHQUAKES, TIDAL WAVES, VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS, CITIES BURNING: I THOUGHT THINGS WERE AS BAD AS THEY COULD GET FOR OL' MOTHER EARTH.

BUT I WAS WRONG.

A PROFESSOR HARDING DOWN IN S.H.I.E.L.D.'S GEO-SCIENCES WAS THE ONE WHO LAID THE BAD NEWS ON ME.

THE COMPUTER'S PRINTING ITS COLLATED ANALYSIS, PROFESSOR.

MY GOD!

IT'S EVEN WORSE THAN I FEARED--!

OUT OF THE WAY!

GET OUT OF MY WAY!

COLONEL FURY! I MUST SPEAK WITH YOU IMMEDIATELY!

LATER, HARDING.

IN CASE YOU AIN'T HEARD, WE GOT THIS LIL' WORLD-WIDE EMERGENCY ON OUR HANDS!

MORE OF AN EMERGENCY THAN EVEN YOU REALIZE!

YOU MUST LOOK AT THIS READOUT!

WHICH TELLS ME EXACTLY ZIP!

GIVE IT TO ME IN PLAIN ENGLISH AND MAKE IT QUICK.

THIS IS A COMPUTER ANALYSIS OF THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE STELLAR WAVE OF FORCE!

THE ONE THAT CAUSED THE EARTH-QUAKES?

"I'M AFRAID THE EARTHQUAKES ARE THE LEAST OF OUR WORRIES."

THE FORCE WAVE HAS DERAILED OUR PLANET FROM ITS SET ORBIT.

"OUR WORLD IS HEADING FOR A NEW, NEVER-ENDING ICE AGE!"

WHAT?!

THE EARTH IS SLOWLY DRIFTING AWAY FROM THE SUN!

THE UNIVERSE FALLS ASUNDER AROUND US.

I CAN NO LONGER PUT OFF CONFRONT-ING THANOS.

I AGREE. THE TIME FOR ACTION IS NOW.

NOT YET.

THERE ARE FORCES AT WORK YOU DO NOT PERCEIVE.

I WEAVE A DELICATE STRATEGY WHICH RASH ACTIONS COULD REND.

PATIENCE, PLEASE.

WE MUST TRUST IN WARLOCK, FRIEND SURFER.

I, TOO, SENSE THE TREMENDOUS POWERS GATHERING FOR A FINAL CONFRONTATION.

BUT THE WAITING AND NOT KNOWING WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN NEXT IS MADDENING...

TO STRIKE OUT PREMATURELY COULD PROVE DISASTROUS.

THEN LET US BE PREOCCUPIED WITH THE BUSINESS AT HAND.

DR. STRANGE, ARE YOU PREPARED TO EXECUTE THE NEXT STEP IN MY MASTER PLAN?

READY AND WILLING.

THEN LET US BE OFF!

GOOD LUCK.

THE SITUATION ISN'T LOOKING TOO ROSEY AT *AVENGERS' HQ.*

WE'D BEEN HAVING DIFFICULTIES CALLING IN OUR *RESERVES.*

SUDDENLY...

WHAT?!

I'D SEEN DR. STRANGE DO HIS *GRAND ENTRANCE ROUTINE* BEFORE. WHAT I NOW FIND DISTURBING IS THE *COMPANY* HE IS CURRENTLY KEEPING...

WHO?

THE GOLDEN MAN WITH DR. STRANGE APPEARS TO BE *ADAM WARLOCK!*

AND THAT'S *DOCTOR DOOM* WITH THEM!

STAY THY HAND, *ASGARDIAN*--DOOM IS *OUR ALLY* IN THIS STRUGGLE.

AND THE WORD OF *DR. STRANGE* AND THE *SILVER SURFER*-

I KNOW YOU SAW WARLOCK *FALL* IN BATTLE AND ATTENDED HIS *FUNERAL*, BUT--

BUT THE DETAILS OF MY *REBIRTH* ARE OF *NO IMPORTANCE.*

ALL THAT MATTERS IS THE *MISSION* WHICH BRINGS US HERE-

WHICH *IS?*

ON *THIS* I SHOULD TAKE YOUR WORD, *MR. COPPERTONE?*

SO *HOW* CAN HE NOW BE STANDING BEFORE US?

TIS A *REINCARNATION* OF SORTS, NOBLE THOR, IF THAT'S WHO YOU BE.

THE RAISING OF AN *ARMY!*

THERE'S BAD CRAZINESS ON THE STREETS; MORE BUILDINGS BURNING THAN FIRE TRUCKS AND FIGHTERS.

ORTIZ BODY SHOP

I TRY TO HELP OUT THE BEST I CAN.

THE BLACK WIDOW'S BEEN IN THERE CLOSE TO TEN MINUTES.

SHE'S A GONER FOR SURE.

MY BABY... MY BABY...

BUT AT LEAST I SAVE THE CHILD.

HOPEFULLY SHE'LL SURVIVE THE INSANITY.

I'M BREATHING FLAMES.

FINDING AN ESCAPE ROUTE BY SHEER LUCK.

MORE THAN ENOUGH HAVE DIED ALREADY.

LOOK! ON THE FIFTH FLOOR!

HELP ME!

FOR GOD'S SAKE-- SOMEBODY HELP ME!!

YA CAN'T GO BACK IN THERE, WIDOW LADY.

SHE'S GONE.

YEAH, YOU DONE ALL YOU COULD.

BUT IT'S NOT ENOUGH.

IT'S JUST NOT ENOUGH.

HEAR MY WORDS AND HEED THEM!

I CALL UPON YOU TO AID IN THE STRUGGLE THIS POOR TORTURED WORLD SUFFERS.

YOUR SKILLS AND POWERS ARE GRAVELY NEEDED!

THEN IRON MAN WILL JUST HAVE TO ANSWER THAT CALL.

COUNT YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN IN, TOO!

AND STILL OTHERS JOIN THE CAUSE.

THE FIERCE MUTANT KNOWN AS THE *WOLVERINE*.

THE DULL-WITTED YET POWERFUL *DRAX* THE *DESTROYER*.

ONE-TIME HERALD TO GALACTUS AND SPACE TRAVELER, *FIRELORD*.

NOVA OF THE NEW WARRIORS.

THE REGAL AND MIGHTY *PRINCE NAMOR*, SUB-MARINER.

THE DARK AND FORBODING *CLOAK*.

X-FACTOR'S MUTANT LEADER CYCLOPS.

THE MUTANT MYSTIC THE SCARLET WITCH-

BUT...

I HAVE A PROBLEM HERE...!

COMING SOON!

DR. BANNER-- THE HULK--REFUSES TO JOIN US.

HIS BRUTE STRENGTH WOULD BE AWFULLY USEFUL IN THE UPCOMING BATTLE.

WHAT IS HIS PROBLEM?

HE'S ANGRY WITH THE AVENGERS FOR TURNING THEIR BACKS ON HIM ALL THESE YEARS.

HE WAS ONE OF OUR FOUNDING MEMBERS,

AND HE CAN BE AGAIN, NOW THAT HE'S REFORMED.

THEN THAT'LL DO FOR NOW.

WE CAN TALK PARTICULARS LATER.

AND SO OUR LITTLE ARMY IS COMPLETE...

WHEN DOES THE *FUN* BEGIN?

ONLY WHEN I SAY SO.

WHO MADE GOLDILOCKS THE **BOSS** AROUND HERE?

CIRCUMSTANCES, HULK-

EVERYONE, LISTEN UP-

AS YOU ALL KNOW, WE'VE GATHERED TO TAKE ON THANOS AND HIS *INFINITY GAUNTLET*, AND-

BEFORE WE GO ANY FURTHER, CAPTAIN, I DEMAND TO DISCUSS WHO WOULD *BEST* SERVE AS LEADER OF THIS ASSAULT FORCE.

WHAT IS THERE TO DISCUSS?

IT'S OBVIOUS THAT ONLY DOCTOR DOOM HAS THE LEADERSHIP AND RUTHLESSNESS SUITED FOR THAT POSITION-

NOT A *CHANCE*, DOOM-

I THOROUGHLY BACK WARLOCK IN THIS MATTER.

AS DO I.

DITTO.

ME TOO-- I GUESS.

LIKE IT OR NOT, DOOM, LATVERIA'S ONLY GOT ONE CHANCE FOR SURVIVAL -- AND IT'S ADAM WARLOCK. DEEP, DEEP DOWN, YOU KNOW THAT.

WHAT DO YOU SAY? IN ...OR OUT?

VERY WELL, CAPTAIN-- IN... FOR NOW.

WELL, THAT WAS FUN.

WISE DECISION. YOU ALL KNOW NOTHING OF THE MYSTERIOUS WORKINGS OF THE INFINITY GEMS...

...OR OF THE ARRANGEMENTS I'VE MADE TO GARNER ADDITIONAL ALLIES.

WHAT ALLIES?

COSMIC ALLIES.

DR. STRANGE, SURFER -- ARE YOU READY?

AS READY AS WE CAN BE.

THEN, CAPTAIN AMERICA, I LEAVE YOU IN CHARGE UNTIL MY RETURN.

LET US BE GONE.

WHERE DID THEY TAKE OFF TO?

TO THE FAR DISTANT CORNER OF THE GALAXY.

SAY WHAT?

MY EYES SEE IT...

...BUT MARC SPECTOR, THE *MOON KNIGHT*, JUST DOESN'T BELIEVE IT.

MY GUESS IS THAT AN *OIL REFINERY* UPRIVER RUPTURED DURING THE *QUAKE* AND SOMETHING IGNITED THE ESCAPING GAS AND OIL.

AND THERE'S *NOTHING* I CAN DO TO STOP IT.

I STOPPED **STAINED GLASS SCARLETT** FROM TORCHING THE CITY...

...BUT NOW IT'S BURNING ANYWAY!

THE *FIRE* WILL TAKE OUT *HALF* OF WHAT'S LEFT OF *NEW YORK CITY.*

WHEN WILL IT ALL END?

AND WHAT WILL BE LEFT WHEN IT DOES END?

TO TELL THE TRUTH, SPIDER-MAN--

--I'M NOT *SURE* I'M UP TO THIS...

THESE ARE SOME OF THE WORLD'S *MIGHTIEST HEROES* GATHERED HERE.

DON'T WASTE TIME WORRY-ING ABOUT IT, CLOAK.

THEY ALL PUT THEIR *TIGHTS* ON THE SAME WAY YOU DO= *ONE LEG* AT A TIME.

YOU *WOULDN'T* HAVE BEEN CALLED UP IF THEY DIDN'T THINK YOU COULD *CUT* IT.

FACE IT, SPIDEY, WE'RE ABOUT TO TAKE ON THE MOST *POWERFUL FORCE* IN THE WHOLE DANG UNIVERSE!

YOU'LL DO JUST *FINE*.

JUST WISH I WAS AS *CONFIDENT* AS I SOUND!

ODDS ARE AGAINST *ANY* OF US LIVING TO SEE *TOMORROW*!

EPOCH, MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

WHEN'S THIS *COSMIC SUMMIT* GOING TO HAPPEN?

SOON, QUASAR.

SOON.

NOW?

THE SILVER AND GOLDEN SURFERS?

WELCOME.

THEY HAVE NOT YET ARRIVED?

THE GATHERING HAS BEEN AWAITING YOUR ARRIVAL.

NOT EVEN MY EXPERIENCES AS EARTH'S COSMIC DEFENDER HAS PREPARED ME FOR ANYTHING LIKE THIS.

I KNOW WHO THEY ARE FROM STORIES EON HAD TOLD ME.

BUT TO ACTUALLY BE IN THEIR COLLECTIVE PRESENCE IS OVERWHELMING.

THE MYSTERIOUS WATCHER!

THEY ARE THE ASTRAL DEITIES OF THE UNIVERSE!

ETERNITY, THE ACTUAL EMBODIMENT OF ALL THERE IS!

I WAS EXPECTING NEITHER ETERNITY NOR THE LIVING TRIBUNAL.

THEIR PRESENCE ALSO COMES AS A SURPRISE TO ME.

KRONOS, THE TITAN GOD OF TIME!

LORD CHAOS AND MASTER ORDER, THE GALACTIC BALANCE.

THE POWERFUL AND ENIGMATIC STRANGER!

THE MYSTERIOUS EMBODIMENTS OF LOVE AND HATE!

THE LIVING TRIBUNAL, THE COSMIC JUDGE OF ALL REALITIES

THE MIGHTY DESTROYER OF WORLDS, GALACTUS!

AND TWO GIANTS THAT CAN ONLY BE CELESTIALS!

I, ETERNITY, AM THE ACTUALITY THAT THANOS STRIVES TO USURP.

I COME SEEKING JUDGMENT FROM THE ONE BEING I CONSIDER A PEER.

AND SO THE LIVING TRIBUNAL STANDS PRESENT AT ETERNITY'S REQUEST TO HEAR HIS CASE.

THE MAD TITAN SEEKS TO UNBALANCE THAT WHICH IS, THROW THE NATURE OF THE UNIVERSE INTO A MANIACAL ENTROPY.

I HAVE CONSIDERED THE MATTER AND CANNOT CONCUR.

THANOS ONLY STRIVES TO REPLACE YOUR IMPORTANCE IN THE UNIVERSE WITH HIS OWN.

NATURAL SELECTION IS ONE OF THE UNIVERSE'S OLDEST CANONS: THE STRONG REPLACE THE WEAK.

IT IS AS IT SHOULD BE. NO COSMIC CRIME IS BEING COMMITTED.

THE LIVING TRIBUNAL SHALL NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN THIS MATTER.

ETERNITY'S TAKING A POWDER ALSO!

WHY?

PERHAPS HE HAS HIS *OWN* AGENDA TO PURSUE.

IT MATTERS NOT.

WE WILL DEAL WITH THE *FORCES* STILL AVAILABLE TO US.

WHOSE NUMBERS I *CANNOT* BE COUNTED AMONG, ADAM WARLOCK.

I REMAIN A *WATCHER* AND AM HERE ONLY TO *OBSERVE* AND *RECORD*.

HOW SAD. I HAD HOPED THAT THE *CURRENT CRISIS* WOULD ALLOW YOU TO *PUT ASIDE* THAT RESOLVE.

NONETHELESS I BELIEVE THE *POWERS* GATHERED ARE *MORE* THAN SUFFICIENT TO *EXECUTE* MY PLAN OF ATTACK.

YOUR PLAN OF ATTACK?!

YOU EXPECT *GALACTUS* TO FOLLOW ONE SUCH AS *YOU* INTO BATTLE?

THAT IS WHY I AM HERE.

GALACTUS DOES NOT HEED THE *EMPTY WORDS* OF *INSECTS*, EVEN GOLDEN ONES.

THEN GALACTUS IS A *FOOL*.

GALACTUS! *NO!*

NO!

WE FACE A DIRE PERIL MY FELLOW TITANS.

OUR DEFENSE WILL BE MORE EASILY PLANNED WITHOUT YAMMERING MORTALS TO DISTRACT US.

DOES GALACTUS ALWAYS LET HIS ANGER SO BADLY CLOUD HIS JUDGEMENT?

WHO?

JUST A YAMMERING MORTAL WHO KNOWS THAT NAKED POWER IS SELDOM THE ANSWER TO ANY PROBLEM.

SURELY YOU MUST REALIZE THAT EVEN THIS GROUP'S COMBINED MIGHT IS NOTHING COMPARED TO THE FORCE THANOS WIELDS.

ONLY A RICHLY COMPLEX AND SKILLFULLY EXECUTED STRATEGY WILL INSURE YOUR SURVIVAL.

TIME IS SHORT AND I HAVE SUCH A PLAN.

GALACTUS, WE KNOW THIS ADAM WARLOCK.

HE IS ONE OUTSIDE THE LOOP OF DESTINY AND CAPABLE OF WONDROUS DEEDS.

MASTER ORDER AND LORD CHAOS HAVE WEIGHED THE OPTIONS...

...AND CHOSE TO JOIN FORCES WITH ADAM WARLOCK.

EPOCH AND HIS CHAMPION, QUASAR, ALSO ALLY THEMSELVES WITH WARLOCK.

AS DOES THE STRANGER.

AND LOVE, HATE AND THE CELESTIALS, APPARENTLY.

YOU CAN INCLUDE LORD KRONOS ALSO, MORTAL.

WHAT NOW, PROUD AND MIGHTY GALACTUS?

NEVER BEFORE FELT THINGS SO *TENSE* AROUND AVENGERS' HEADQUARTERS.

THE WAITING'S GOT ME GOING UP THE WALL.

VIS, WHAT DO YOU FIGURE OUR *CHANCES* ARE OF BEATING THIS THANOS CHARACTER?

NEXT TO *ZERO*.

HUH?

BUT DIDN'T THE *AVENGERS* TAKE THIS DUDE DOWN A COUPLE TIMES?

NOT EXACTLY.

IN THOSE ENCOUNTERS THE AVENGERS WON THE DAY, BUT *NOT* WITHOUT *HELP*.

NO, I MEAN FROM *THANOS* HIMSELF.

IN BOTH BATTLES THANOS *PROVIDED* US WITH THE *MEANS* TO THWART HIS DARK PLANS.

WHETHER HE DID SO *CONSCIOUSLY* OR *SUBCONSCIOUSLY* I DO NOT KNOW.

YOU MEAN FROM *CAPTAIN MARVEL* AND *WARLOCK*?

THEN YOU'RE SAYING...

...THAT OUR FIGHTING FORCES CAN VANQUISH THANOS ONLY IF HE *WISHES* TO BE *DEFEATED.*

AND IF HE *DOESN'T FEEL* LIKE GETTING HIS TAIL KICKED?

THEN THE *UNIVERSE,* AS WE KNOW IT, IS *DOOMED.*

I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE!!

SOMETHING WE'D BEST LOOK INTO-

WHAT'S THAT?

YOU'RE A VICIOUS COLD-*BLOODED SNAKE* WHO DOES NOT CARE FOR ANYONE BUT *HIMSELF!*

YOU SEE THIS CRISIS AS JUST ANOTHER *OPPORTUNITY* FOR BETTER SOLIDIFYING YOUR *POWER BASE!*

YOU'RE PLANNING ON *GRABBING* WHATEVER YOU CAN OUT OF THIS *MESS* AND THE BLAZES WITH THE REST OF HUMANITY-

THAT IS MY WAY.

WHY YOU--

IRON MAN, CUT IT OUT!

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF OUR HOSPITALITY IS INADVISABLE, DOCTOR.

AVENGER, YOU'RE OUT OF LINE!

THOR, TAKE IRON MAN INTO THE OTHER ROOM TO COOL OFF!

AND AS FOR YOU, DOOM- I BEGIN TO WONDER IF THE DISSENSION YOUR PRESENCE CREATES DOESN'T NEGATE YOUR USEFULNESS.

THE UPCOMING BATTLE WILL MAKE THAT DETERMI-NATION, CAPTAIN-

WHAT TRANSPIRES HERE?

JUST A MINOR DOMESTIC DISPUTE.

WASTED ENERGY BETTER SAVED FOR DEALING WITH THANOS.

AND WHEN CAN WE EXPECT THIS BATTLE TO BEGIN--?

WITHIN MINUTES, MY IMPATIENT CAPTAIN.

I'VE ONLY A FEW LAST MINUTE DETAILS TO ATTEND TO.

WHERE CAN I FIND THE MUTANT KNOWN AS WOLVERINE?

I SAW HIM HEADING FOR THE ROOF.

WHAT?!

THE HULK'S UP THERE!

THOSE TWO HAVE TANGLED MORE TIMES THAN I CAN REMEMBER!

I BETTER--

ALLOW ME TO HANDLE THE SITUATION.

HOW LONG HAS HE BEEN HOVERING THERE?

ONLY A FEW MOMENTS.

BUT THE *WATCHER'S* COMING HERALDS THE BEGINNING OF *HOSTILITIES.*

FOOLS TAKING UP *ARMS* AGAINST *OMNIPOTENCE.*

THEY RUSH HEAD-ON INTO *ARMAGEDDON.*

SO I SHALL PROVIDE THEM WITH A MOST *GLORIOUS DOOMSDAY!*

THE HEAVENS WILL RUN *RED* WITH *BLOOD.*

BUT IN THE END, AS ALWAYS, *THANOS* WILL STAND *TRIUMPHANT.*

COULDN'T TAKE BEING COOPED UP WITH THOSE JERKS ANY LONGER, HUH?

JUST WANTED SOME AIR.

DIDN'T MEAN TA DISTURB YOU.

YOU DIDN'T, STICK AROUND.

I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO BE LIKE THOSE OTHER WIMPS.

HOW COME?

YOU AND I, WE'VE HAD SOME DOWN AND DIRTY SCRAPS.

YOU FIGHT SOMEONE, YOU GET TO KNOW THEM PRETTY WELL.

AND?

AND I'VE COME TO THE CONCLUSION I LIKE YOU, SHORTY.

WHY'S THAT?

BECAUSE IN OUR OWN WAYS, WE'RE BOTH MONSTERS, PAL.

WHICH IS *WHY* I WISH TO *SPEAK* WITH THE TWO OF YOU *ALONE.*

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, FANCY PANTS?

LIFE AND DEATH.

IN A SHORT WHILE, WE CONFRONT *THANOS*, A BEING OF UNIMAGINABLE POWER WHOSE *SOLE GOAL* IS THE *DESTRUCTION* OF ALL *LIFE.*

YOUR POINT?

EXTREME MEASURES MAY BE CALLED FOR IN *DEALING* WITH HIM.

MEANING *WHAT?*

YOU AND THE HULK HAVE AN *OUTLOOK* ON *DEATH* THE OTHERS DO NOT SHARE...

...EXCEPT FOR *DOOM*, BUT HE *CANNOT* BE *TRUSTED.*

IN OTHER WORDS, WE GET THE *CHANCE*...

...YOU WANT US TO *SANCTION* THANOS.

THAT IS AS GOOD A WAY OF PUTTING IT AS ANY.

YOU'RE A BIT OF A *MONSTER* YOURSELF, AREN'T YOU, GOLDILOCKS?

WE ARE WHAT *CIRCUMSTANCES* MAKE OF US.

SNOW? IN MAY?

MY ENEMIES COME FOR ME, MISTRESS DEATH.

WILL YOU STAND BY MY SIDE?

IT IS AS I EXPECTED.

I DELUDED MYSELF INTO THINKING YOU COULD EVER CARE FOR ME.

BUT A SUPREME BEING HAS NO NEED TO SUFFER A VOID OF AFFECTION.

THANOS SHALL NOT RULE ALONE.

ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE FOR THANOS!

EVEN LIFE!

MISTRESS DEATH, MEET TERRAXIA THE TERRIBLE!

SHE IS EVERY-THING MY SOUL LONGS FOR!

TERRAXIA IS EVERYTHING YOU ARE NOT!

HER TOUCH IS WARM AND HER DEVOTION TO ME TOTAL.

SHE IS THE BALM TO SOOTHE THE ACHE WITHIN MY HEART.

I NO LONGER HAVE ANY NEED OF YOU.

LET THERE BE COSMIC WARFARE!

LET THE BLOOD AND ENTRAILS OF MY OPPONENTS SCRUB AWAY MY PAIN AND SORROW.

DEFENDERS, THE TIME IS UPON US!

PREPARE THYSELVES FOR BATTLE MOST FIERCE AND AWE-SOME.

DR. STRANGE HAS CONJURED *MYSTIC CONDUITS* WHICH WILL TRANSPORT YOU TO THE *PRECISE LOCATION* YOU MUST BE ONCE THE BATTLE COMMENCES.

EACH OF YOU HAS BEEN BRIEFED ON THE *LINE OF ATTACK* YOU SHOULD INSTITUTE.

THE LIVES OF YOUR *FELLOW COMBATANTS* AND THE *UNIVERSE* DEPEND ON YOUR FOLLOWING THIS *PLAN.*

I HAVE ALSO CAST A *SPELL* WHICH WILL ALLOW EACH OF YOU TO NOW *BREATH* FREELY IN THE VACUUM OF *SPACE*--

--FOR THE NEXT *SIXTY MINUTES,*

DR. STRANGE WILL REMAIN BEHIND TO *MONITOR* AND TELEPATHICALLY *APPRISE* ME OF THE SITUATION FROM EACH OF YOUR *POINTS OF VIEW.*

HE WILL ALSO FACILITATE THE *EVACUATION* OF ANY COMBATANT TOO *INJURED* TO CONTINUE THE STRUGGLE.

I WISH... WISH EACH OF YOU... THE BEST OF LUCK...

LET US BE AWAY, SURFER

WHERE ARE WE?

LITTLE MORE THAN A LIGHT YEAR AWAY FROM THANOS'S CURRENT POSITION.

HE SHOULD BE OFF IN THAT DIRECTION.

CAN YOU SPOT HIM WITH THAT FAR-RANGING VISION OF YOURS?

YES...

... HE'S LOOKING OUR WAY.

I DO NOT LIKE BEING HELD IN *RESERVE*, WARLOCK.

MY STRENGTH HAS RETURNED.

I SHOULD BE *PART* OF THE COMING *BATTLE*.

AND YOU WILL BE, BUT ONLY WHEN THE *MOMENT* IS *RIGHT*.

BUT OUR ALLIES WILL NEED MY *POWER* DURING THE *INITIAL ASSAULT*.

YOU STILL DO NOT TRULY *COMPREHEND* OUR SITUATION, DO YOU?

PERHAPS NOT. THERE APPEARS TO BE *MUCH* YOU HAVE HESITATED IN *SHARING* WITH YOUR *COMRADES*.

THANOS CONTROLS ALL ASPECTS OF TIME, REALITY, SPACE, POWER, THE SOUL AND THE MIND.

HE QUITE LITERALLY COMMANDS *ALL* THERE *IS*.

"HE IS TRULY *INVINCIBLE*.

HEADS UP, EVERY-BODY!

"UTTERLY *OMNIPOTENT*.

TIME TO MAKE THE *BIG* JUMP.

"SUCH STATEMENTS ARE NOT GRANDIOSE RHETORIC.

"THEY ARE REALITY!

ON YOUR MARK...

GET READY...

GET SET...

GO!

"OUR ALLIES' POWER IS LESS THAN NOTHING AGAINST THANOS' MIGHT. THEY STAND DEFEATED BEFORE THE BATTLE HAS EVEN BEGUN.

"THE TRUE PURPOSE OF THEIR ATTACK IS MERELY DIVERSIONARY.

"THEY ARE SACRIFICIAL LAMBS.

"AND MAY THE STARS FORGIVE ME, THIS IS EXACTLY AS I PLANNED!"

NEXT:
CONFLICT ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE GALAXY

***INFINITY GAUNTLET PREMIERE HC* BACK COVER** BY GEORGE PÉREZ & THOMAS MASON

MARVEL COMICS

4 OCT

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

THE INFINITY GAUNTLET™

COME AND GET ME!

MY BROTHER, THANOS, IS INSANE...

HE BEHOLDS FOUR OF THE EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES--THOR, FIRELORD, NAMOR AND IRON MAN POUNCING TO THE ATTACK...

...AND WHAT DOES HE DO?

THE MADMAN SMILES.

BUT MAYBE HE HAS GOOD REASON TO.

POWER IS ONE THING THANOS HAS IN ABUNDANCE.

SNAP

THE POWER TO FREEZE EARTH'S DEFENDERS IN TIME...

IT APPEARS THIS CONFLICT WILL NOT LIVE UP TO EXPECTATIONS...

„WILL NOT BE A„

CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS

JIM STARLIN
WRITER

RON LIM & GEORGE PEREZ
PENCILS

JOSEF RUBINSTEIN
WITH BRUCE N. SOLOTOFF
INKS

SCHEELE | LAUGHLIN
COLORS
CRAIG ANDERSON
EDITOR

JACK MORELLI
LETTERS
TOM DeFALCO
CHIEF

OF COURSE, THANOS HAS SPARED HIS ENTOURAGE THE INDIGNITY OF BEING RIPPED LOOSE FROM THE *TIME FLOW.*

MEPHISTO...

MISTRESS DEATH...

NEBULA...

TERRAXIA...

...AND MYSELF, EROS.

EVEN THE ENIGMATIC WATCHER WAS SPARED.

WHAT USE IS GODHOOD IF YOU HAVE NO AUDI-ENCE TO FLAUNT IT BEFORE.

ARE THESE THE *BEST* THE UNIVERSE COULD SEND AGAINST ME?

SUCH A *PUNY* FORCE.

WITH BUT A *THOUGHT* I COULD *TERMINATE* THEIR ANNOYING EXISTENCES...

THERE ARE *TWO OTHERS* YOU MIGHT WISH TO INCLUDE IN YOUR THOUGHTS, MY LORD.

THE MORTAL KNOWN AS THE *SILVER SURFER*...

...AND MY ONE-TIME COMRADE, *ADAM WARLOCK*, RETURNED TO PLAGUE ME IN A *NEW BODY*...

THEY SEEM TO BE THE ONLY *TWO ENTITIES* IN THE GALAXY *INTELLIGENT* ENOUGH NOT TO *CHALLENGE* MY OMNIPOTENCE.

STILL, THEY SHOULD BE *DISPATCHED* WITH THE *REST*.

MY LORD THANOS, *STAY* THY *HAND*.

THE UNSEEMLY *INTERRUPTION* MAY JUST BE *OPPORTUNITY DISGUISED*.

SPEAK YOUR *MIND*, MEPHISTO.

YOU HAVE POWER WITHOUT LIMIT.

YET STILL YOU FAIL TO WIN MISTRESS DEATH'S HEART.

THESE BUFFOONS MAY PROVE USEFUL IN CHANGING THAT SITUATION.

HOW SO?

COURAGE, MY LIEGE.

ALL FEMALE HEARTS, EVEN ONE AS COLD AS DEATH'S, ARE WARMED BY THE SIGHT OF RAW COURAGE.

COURAGE SUCH AS IS EXHIBITED IN BATTLE.

BUT SUCH BRAVERY ONLY EXISTS WHEN ONE FACES THE PROSPECT OF DEFEAT.

MEETING THAT STANDARD WOULD REQUIRE BALANCING THE TERMS OF BATTLE SO THESE FOOLS STOOD A CHANCE OF VICTORY.

SOMETHING NOT BEYOND YOUR ABILITY TO ARRANGE.

YES.

YES... YES I CAN DO IT!

I NEED ONLY TO CUT MYSELF OFF FROM ALL SENSORY INPUT FROM TIME, SPACE, REALITY, THOUGHT AND THE SOUL.

I WOULD RETAIN LIMITLESS POWER, YET NOT KNOW MY ENEMIES' NEXT MOVE.

THAT WOULD ALLOW THEM A .05% CHANCE FOR VICTORY!

"...NOT THE GREATEST ODDS IN THE UNIVERSE..."

"...BUT PERHAPS GOOD ENOUGH TO IMPRESS MISTRESS DEATH.

WHAT GAME IS MEPHISTO PLAYING HERE?

IT WAS MOST SUBTLY DONE, BUT THAT DEVIL JUST SAVED THE LIVES OF EARTH'S HEROES!

AND ENGINEERED THE POSSIBILITY OF THANOS'S DEFEAT!

THE MASTER OF DECEIT IS PLAYING UPON THE CONFUSION THANOS IS EXPERIENCING ADJUSTING TO HIS NEWLY ELEVATED STATE OF BEING.

IT SEEMS THE FORCES OF LIFE HAVE A MOST UNLIKELY COMRADE.

WHO?

Oh.

IT'S ONLY NEBULA.

AND SO PREPARE TO WITNESS COSMIC WARFARE NEVER BEFORE SEEN UNDER THESE STARS, MISTRESS.

MY DIMINISHED CAPACITY NOW TURNS THIS CONFLICT INTO A TRUE TEST OF NERVES AND BATTLE SKILLS.

A MASTERFUL PLAN, SIRE!

I DO BELIEVE I SAW A GLEAM IN MISTRESS DEATH'S EYES!

SNAP!

THEN LET THAT GLEAM BE FANNED TO A ROARING FLAME!

LET THE BATTLE BEGIN!

TIME RESUMES ITS NORMAL FLOW WITH BONE-JARRING RESULTS...

HA HA HA HA

HA HA HA HA

THEN...

"...THE UNBELIEVABLE OCCURS!

DRAX THE DESTROYER AND THE MONSTROUS HULK TAKE THANOS BY SURPRISE...!

HE TRULY HAS DAMPENED HIS COSMIC SENSES!

LOVE AND GOD-HOOD TRULY HAVE BEFUDDLED HIS REASON.

THANOS IS ACTUALLY PLAYING BY THE RULES! HOW OUT OF CHARACTER.

YET, DO EVEN THESE MIGHTY WARRIORS STAND A CHANCE AGAINST THANOS' VAST POWERS?

I DOUBT IT.

THEY ARE BUT BOTHERSOME FLEAS TO THANOS.

SO THIS IS THE *HOTSHOT* WHO WANTS TO *DESTROY* THE *UNIVERSE*?

HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE *MUCH* TO ME!

THIS CREEP ISN'T EVEN TRYING TO DEFEND HIMSELF!

EASIEST BATTLE I... I... EVER...

THOUGH THEIR CAUSE IS *HOPELESS*, I MUST HAND IT TO EARTH'S DEFENDERS...

...THEIR BATTLE *STRATEGY* IS *FIRST RATE* AND FLAWLESSLY *EXECUTED*...

A LESSER FOE WOULD SURELY FALL BEFORE THEIR ASSAULT!

WHAT?

HOW?

BUT NOT THANOS.

AMAZING. I WOULD NEVER HAVE SUSPECTED SUCH AN AVENUE OF ATTACK.

OF COURSE IT'S CAPTAIN AMERICA WHO LEADS THIS FIGHTING FORCE-

IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT THANOS CONFUSED!

POUR ON THE POWER!

FOLLOW THE PLAN!

AND HOPEFULLY A FEW OF US MIGHT SURVIVE!

VAIN HOPES...

I CAN ALREADY SENSE THANOS ADJUSTING TO HIS SITUATION, TAKING CONTROL OF THE BATTLE.

THE SHE-HULK AND NAMOR MUST BE MERCILESS IF THEY HOPE TO PREVAIL.

HOW GOES THE BATTLE?

AS EXPECTED...

I SHOULD BE WITH MY FRIENDS, FIGHTING BY THEIR SIDE.

THAT WOULD BE UTTER FOLLY.

AND WHY IS THAT?

BECAUSE YOU HAVE A MAJOR ROLE TO PLAY IN THIS LITTLE GAME.

WHICH IS?

ALL IN DUE TIME, SURFER...

WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW, THANOS WON'T STUMBLE UPON.

DOESN'T THAT SAME RISK EXIST WITH HIM READING YOUR MIND?

NO.

THANOS KNOWS ME.

HE'LL NOT RISK SUCH A DISTRACTION WHILE IN THE MIDST OF BATTLE-

"THANOS HAS NARROWED THE SCOPE OF HIS GODHOOD JUST AS HE WAS BEGINNING TO ADJUST TO IT-

"HIS MIND MUST BE REELING FROM THE CHANGES.

"OF COURSE THAT MAKES HIM NO LESS DANGEROUS."

AWAY FROM ME YOU CLOWNS!

NAMOR--THERE'S SOMETHING GROWING WHERE THANOS TOUCHED US!!

REMOVE IT, QUICKLY!

SORRY, NAMOR, MY BROTHER WOULD NEVER LAY A TRAP SO EASILY EVADED.

TO YOUR SORROW, THERE ARE TRUTHS THAT CANNOT BE DENIED.

HE IS THANOS AND HIS NAME MEANS DEATH.

THE OLD CAMPAIGNER IN THANOS BEGINS TO RETURN...

THIS TYPE OF BATTLE HAS ALWAYS BEEN HIS FORTE.

ANY HOPE I FOOLISHLY HELD OF EARTH'S HEROES TRIUMPHING QUICKLY FADES.

YET HOPE NEVER DIES...

IT IS A UNIVERSAL CONDITION WITHIN THE SPECIES.

UNFORTUNATELY, TREACHERY ALSO RESIDES IN SOME HEARTS.

DOCTOR DOOM-- BACK OFF!

YOU'RE IN THE WAY!

THE GAUNTLET!!

IT WILL BE MINE!

SUCH GREED ALWAYS CREATES ITS OWN REWARD.

DOOM TASTES THE BITTER NECTAR OF THANOS'S WRATH-

FORTUNATELY, HIS ARMOR'S DEFENSIVE SYSTEMS SAVE HIM FROM SUFFERING TOTAL DEFEAT AND DESTRUCTION.

BUT ONCE AGAIN, A VALUABLE LESSON GOES UNAPPRECI-ATED.

I WILL NOT BE DENIED THOSE GEMS!

WHILE ONE WHO HAS ALWAYS KNOWN SUCH TRUTHS FIGHTS ON DESPITE ALL ODDS.

AND, IN TURN DISCOVERS NEW, MORE HORRIFYING REALITIES.

A TELEPORTATIONAL PORTAL CONJURED UP BY THE POWER SUPREME.

WITHOUT MY HAMMER, I'LL REVERT TO PLAIN OL' ERIC MASTERSON IN A MERE 60 SECONDS!

HAVE TO MAKE EVERY MOMENT COUNT!

SO SAVAGE IS THE THUNDER GOD'S ATTACK THAT EVEN MIGHTY THANOS IS MOMENTARILY TAKEN ABACK!

SADLY, SPIRIT WILL ONLY CARRY ONE SO FAR IN AN ENCOUNTER SUCH AS THIS.

POWER IS THE ONLY CAPITAL HONORED IN THIS HIGH STAKES GAME.

AND THOR WAS THE HIGHEST CARD IN OUR HAND.

'TIS FIRELORD, YET ANOTHER OF GALACTUS'S HERALDS, IS IT NOT?

WHOSE POWER SHALL PUT AN END TO THIS MADNESS!

HIGHLY UNLIKELY, MY BOASTFUL FRIEND!

THEN THE TRULY UNEXPECTED HAPPENS, THE MIRACULOUS!

HE IS ONE OF THE X-MEN--GOES BY THE NAME OF WOLVERINE!

OF ALL THE COMBATANTS, HE WOULD'VE BEEN ONE OF THE LAST I THOUGHT CAPABLE OF DELIVERING THE DEATH BLOW-

BUT THEN MY HOPES PLUMMET FROM THE MOUNTAIN HEIGHTS TO THE DEPTHS OF THE DARK VALLEY.

EEYAARRGH!

ADAMANTIUM BONE TRANSFORMS INTO SPONGY RUBBER, AND THE MOST VICIOUS OF EARTH'S DEFENDERS FLOPS TO THE GROUND, HELPLESS.

DOOM, YOU RETURN FOR ANOTHER SHOT AT MY GAUNTLET?

ONLY DEATH WILL STAY MY HAND!

THAT CAN BE ARRANGED!

WE GROW RESTLESS AND WISH TO JOIN THE BATTLE!

NOW BE GONE, BEFORE THANOS SENSES YOUR PRESENCE!

WARLOCK! THAT IS MIGHTY ETERNITY YOU SPEAK TO!

NOT YET.

JUST ANOTHER PIECE ON THE GAME BOARD AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED.

THAT'S TRULY ALL THIS IS TO YOU, ISN'T IT?

A GAME!

IF I ALLOW IT TO BE ANY MORE THAN THAT...

...I COULD NOT GO ON.

MY HEART IS DEEPLY TOUCHED BY THE VALOR I WITNESS HERE THIS DAY...

THE MIGHT THE SCARLET WITCH AND CYCLOPS WIELD IS NOTHING COMPARED TO THANOS'S POWER.

THEY KNOW THIS, YET STILL THEY PRESS THE ATTACK!

THANOS TURNS HIS ATTENTIONS FIRST TO LOVELY WANDA.

HER MUTANT HEX POWER EASILY FALL BEFORE HIS WILL.

I AVERT MY EYES. I'VE NO WISH TO REMEMBER SUCH HORROR.

WANDA!

AND, NOW MY BRIGHT-EYED FOE, WE SHALL--

A MASTERFUL MOVE CUTTING OFF THE FORCE BEAM WHEN LEAST EXPECTED.

MY BROTHER PITCHES FORWARD, OFF BALANCE, AND THE AVENGER IRON MAN SWOOPS IN FOR THE KILL...

UNFORTUNATELY, THE METALLIC WARRIOR'S NAKED POWER IS NOT EQUAL TO HIS BATTLE PROWESS.

THEN THANOS'S NEWLY CREATED PERFECT WOMAN, TERRAXIA, JOINS THE FRAY...

THE MAD GOD ALLOWS HER TO VENT HER ANGER AND FRUSTRATION ON THE GOLDEN AVENGER.

MY BROTHER SETS HIS SIGHTS ON THE X-MAN, CYCLOPS.

A CLEAR BLOCK OF FORCE ENVELOPS THE MUTANT'S HEAD...

...CUTTING OFF HIS FORCE BEAM IN MIDSTREAM--

--AND CUTTING OFF OXYGEN TO THE WARRIOR...

CAPTAIN AMERICA RUSHES TO THE FALLEN MUTANT'S AID, WHILE A ONCE SUCCESSFUL PLOY IS TRIED AGAIN.

BUT THANOS NEVER FALLS FOR THE SAME TRICK TWICE.

AND YET ANOTHER VALIANT SOUL FALLS-

JUST A LITTLE FARTHER,

ALMOST THERE...

I MADE IT!

BUT PERHAPS TOO LATE.

FOR THE MYSTIC SPELL DR. STRANGE CAST SO THE THUNDER GOD COULD BREATHE IN THE DEPTH OF DARK SPACE...

...APPARENTLY DOES NOT EXTEND TO THIS MORTAL ERIC MASTERSON!

HE'S DEAD!

YOU MURDERED HIM, YOU COLD-HEARTED MONSTER!

SUCH AN EMOTIONAL OUTBURST--

--NOT AT ALL WHAT I EXPECTED FROM THE LEGENDARY CAPTAIN AMERICA!

UNLESS IT SERVES TO CREATE A CLEVER DIVERSION.

THE BEING KNOWN AS CLOAK DRAWS THE CRAZED TITAN INTO THE EBON FOLDS OF HIS CAPE...

...INTO A DARK AND FEARFUL DIMENSION.

YOU DID IT, CLOAK!

BUT CAN YOU HOLD HIM?!

DON'T KNOW--

I THINK... I...

NO!

SUPREMACY CANNOT BE IMPRISONED!

MY DIVINITY IS ABSOLUTE!

YOURS IS A FALSE GODHOOD, TITAN!

AND ALL FALSE GODS EVENTUALLY FALL!

OR ARE TOPPLED!

THANOS LAUGHS AT THEIR DEFIANCE.

AND I AM CHILLED TO THE SOUL.

FOR THERE IS UNHOLY TRUTH IN THAT INSANE HOWL.

MISTRESS DEATH KNOWS THIS.

I CAN SEE IT IN HER EYES. SHE HAS NO DOUBT OF THIS CONFLICT'S OUTCOME.

NO BATTLE IS THIS. JUST SLAUGHTER TO FEED AN ALREADY OVER-SIZED EGO.

THE ONLY PERSON NOT FASCINATED BY THIS OUTRAGE IS MY GRAND-NIECE, POOR NEBULA.

FOR HER SHATTERED BODY AND MIND ARE BEYOND ALL CARING.

SHE IS BUT ANOTHER TWISTED CREATION OF THANOS'S BLACK SOUL AND INFINITE POWER.

HE MADE HER THE CHARRED CARICATURE ON THE BRINK SHE NOW IS.

SHE WOULD BE FAR BETTER OFF DEAD.

STILL, SOME DREAMS REFUSE TO DIE.

SOME SOULS NEVER KNOW WHEN THE CAUSE IS LOST.

SUCH IGNORANCE CAN BE TRULY AWE-INSPIRING!

A TIME PORTAL OPENS.

AND MIGHTY FIRELORD AND DRAX THE DESTROYER FIND ITS PULL IRRESISTIBLE.

THEY FALL, LOST WITHIN EARTH'S PREHISTORIC PAST.

THANOS, MY LOVE, I HAVE DISPATCHED THE METAL-CLAD NUISANCE THAT PESTERED YOU!

MY THANKS, TERRAXIA.

YOU PROVE TO BE EXACTLY WHAT I HAD HOPED FOR-

A WOMAN WHO SHARES THE SAME VALUES I DO.

ONE I MIGHT EVEN COME TO--

WHAT?!

HE'S ALL YOURS, THOR!

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE BIMBO!

GGRROOWW!

NOW YOU'RE IN FOR IT, MADMAN!

YOU LAID WASTE TO HALF A UNIVERSE!

A BLACKER DEED I CAN'T IMAGINE!

IT'S TIME TO PAY THE PIPER!

THAT'S IT, THOR! STAY NOT YOUR HAND!

THANOS MUST DIE!!

I THINK.

OR ALL IS LOST.

GOOD GOD!

THANOS HAS TURNED THOR INTO GLASS!!

A GRIM, BOTTOMLESS ACCEPTANCE OF OUR FATE FINALLY CLAIMS ME.

THANOS IS INEVITABLE.

ALL LIGHT IS LOST.

ALL THAT IS LEFT ARE TEARS.

AND THE ECHOES OF DREAMS SHATTERED,

BACK OFF, PRUNE FACE!

NO ONE'S BUSTIN' UP THOR WHILE NOVA'S AROUND.

NOT ROUND. SQUARE.

SQUARE AS IN CUBES.

LIKE A CHILD'S TOY BLOCKS,

ECHOES.

TURN AND FACE ME, THANOS_

FINALLY, THE RESERVES ARE CALLED IN-

YOU ARE QUASAR, THE LATE CAPTAIN MARVEL'S RE-PLACEMENT-

AND WIELDER OF THE QUANTUM-BANDS.

THEY SHALL PROVE TO BE YOUR DOWNFALL!

YOU SUFFER, QUASAR.

NOT AGAIN!

SUFFER FROM UNWARRANTED DILLUSIONS OF GRANDEUR.

ECHOES_

IT'S NOT OVER UNTIL THE FAT LADY SINGS, THANOS.

SURELY YOU JEST?

NEVER BEEN ANY GOOD AT STAND-UP ROUTINES.

WE TRIED.

OR AT ORGANIZING A COSMIC ASSAULT, I SEE.

READY YOUR-SELF.

NOW?

ON MY CALL...!

AS LONG AS ONE MAN STANDS AGAINST YOU, THANOS, YOU'LL NEVER BE able TO CLAIM VICTORY.

NOBLE SENTIMENTS FROM ONE WHO IS ABOUT TO DIE.

THANOS IS GOING TO KILL HIM!

WAIT!!

I'VE LIVED MY LIFE BY THOSE SENTIMENTS.

THEY'RE WELL WORTH DYING FOR.

HUH?

THEN DIE YOU SHALL!

THANOS IS ALWAYS PLEASED TO HONOR SUCH A FOOLISH REQUEST!

ECHOES.

NOW!

THE SURFER MISSES HIS MARK AND THANOS RETAINS HIS GODHOOD.

THE ECHOES OF FAILED PLANS AND GOOD INTENTIONS WASTED IN FUTILE ACTS...

NOTHING REMAINS OF HOPE

NOTHING REMAINS BUT SWEET OBLIVION AND AN END TO THIS NIGHT-MARE.

WHAT HAVE I BEEN DOING?

MUST HAVE BEEN OUT OF MY MIND...

THEY CAME SO CLOSE.

I NEARLY LOST IT ALL...!

LET ME ONCE AGAIN BE ALL THAT I CAN BE!

I WILL MYSELF BACK TO FULL POWER!

I WISH THIS BATTLEFIELD *CLEARED* OF ALL REMNANTS OF--

--THE *FOLLY* I NEARLY ALLOWED!

FOR I SENSE A *FAR GREATER STRUGGLE* ABOUT TO BEGIN.

WE TRIED TO DO THIS THE *EASY WAY*--AND *FAILED.*

NOW BEGINS THE *CONFLICT* I STROVE TO *AVOID.*

IT MAY WELL PROVE TO BE A BATTLE THE *UNIVERSE CANNOT SURVIVE!*

ETERNITY... IT IS NOW YOUR TURN.

DESPITE MY BEST EFFORTS, I CANNOT SHUT MY EYES TO THE AWESOME SIGHT NO MORTAL WAS EVER MEANT TO SEE.

ARMAGEDDON COMMENCES IN BUT SECONDS, AND I HAVE A FRONT ROW SEAT FOR THE EVENT.

I PRAY MY END COMES QUICKLY, FOR THE UNIVERSE IS ABOUT TO BECOME A PLACE I NO LONGER WISH TO BE A PART OF.

NEXT:

ASTRAL CONFLAGRATION

MARVEL COMICS

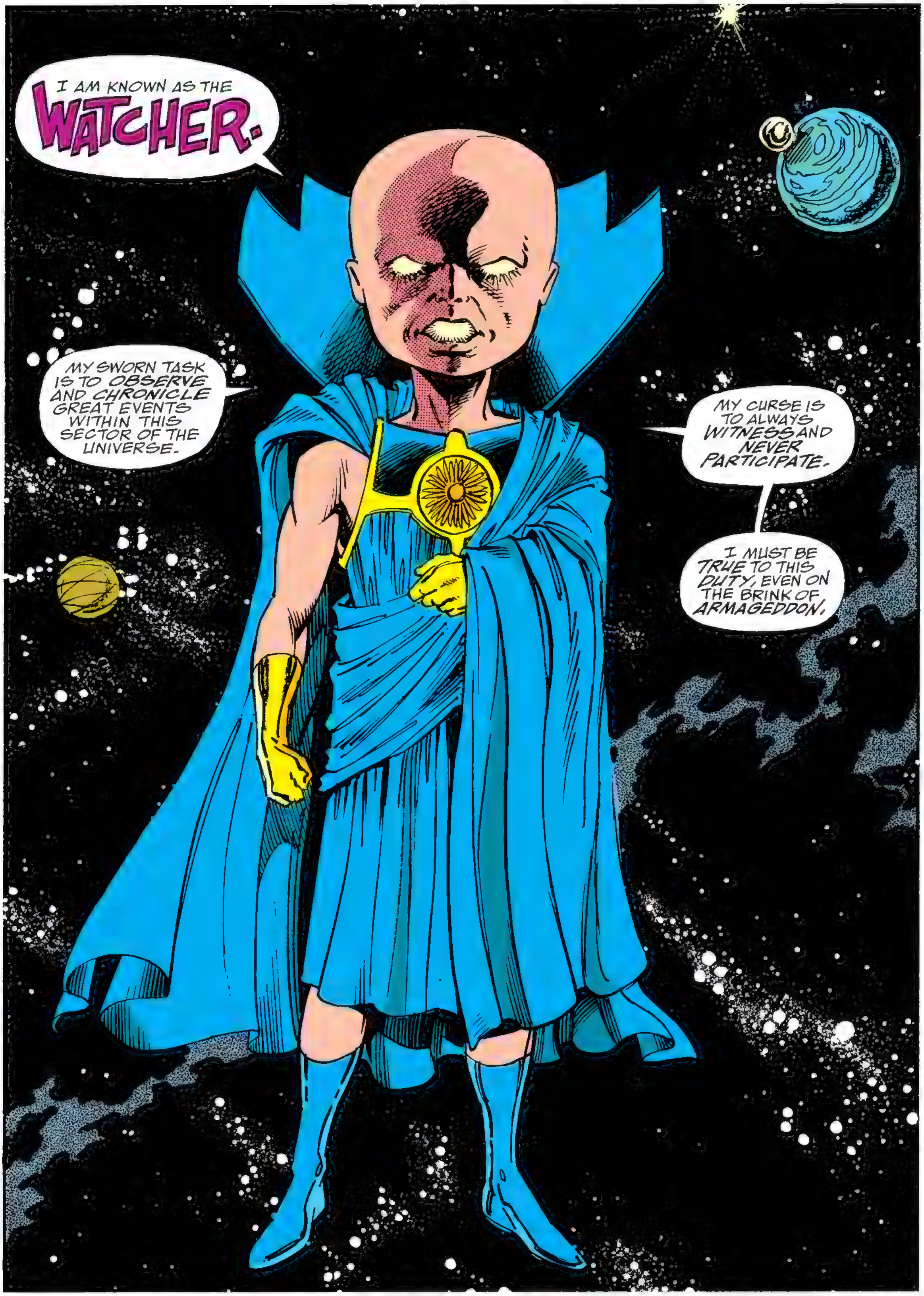
5
NOV
CC 01769

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

THE INFINITY GAUNTLET

TM

BEN 91 + GEORGE PEREZ


I AM KNOWN AS THE WATCHER.
MY SWORN TASK IS TO OBSERVE AND CHRONICLE GREAT EVENTS WITHIN THIS SECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE.
MY CURSE IS TO ALWAYS WITNESS AND NEVER PARTICIPATE.
I MUST BE TRUE TO THIS DUTY, EVEN ON THE BRINK OF ARMAGEDDON.

A CONTINGENT OF COSMIC ENTITIES CHALLENGES THANOS'S MIGHT, SUCH A CONFLICT MAY WELL PROVE MORE THAN THIS FRAGILE REALITY CAN BEAR.

ASTRAL CONFLAGRATION

THANOS OF TITAN...WE CALL UPON YOU TO SURRENDER THE INFINITY GEMS.

HONOR THIS REQUEST OR FACE POWER BEYOND YOUR WILDEST DREAMS.

I BELIEVE YOU WILL DISCOVER THE HORIZONS OF MY IMAGININGS FAR WIDER THAN YOU WOULD SUSPECT, LORD CHAOS.

YOU ADDRESS OMNIPOTENCE.

TREAD CAREFULLY.

JIM STARLIN
WRITER

RON LIM
PENCILS

JOSEF RUBINSTEIN
INKS

LAUGHLIN & SCHEELE
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EDITOR

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CHIEF

THAT WHICH YOU CHALLENGE IS BEYOND EVEN YOUR MYSTIC UNDERSTANDING.

BEGONE, FOOLISH GODLINGS, OR SUFFER MY CELESTIAL WRATH.

I FANCY YOUR BROTHER IS ABOUT TO PUT ON QUITE A SHOW FOR US, YOUNG EROS!

WITH SUCH GRAND FORCES ALIGNED AGAINST HIM, THANOS WILL UNLEASH THE FULL FURY OF HIS POWER.

STILL, THE OUTCOME OF THIS BATTLE YET REMAINS UNCERTAIN.

THERE'LL BE NO TIME TO WORRY ABOUT OR ENERGY TO BE WASTED ON NON-ESSENTIAL PRIORITIES.

SUCH AS THIS MONUMENT OR RELATIVES.

I DOUBT YOU'LL LAST MORE THAN A FEW MICRO-SECONDS INTO THE CONFLICT.

BUT IT SHOULD BE A QUICK DEATH.

OF COURSE, LORD THANOS HAS THE POWER TO REBUILD HIS LOVE MONUMENT AFTERWARDS.

HE'LL MAKE IT AS GOOD AS NEW.

PERHAPS HE'LL DO THE SAME FOR YOU.

JUST LOOK AT THE MARVELOUS JOB HE DID ON NEBULA.

WHILE HALF A GALAXY AWAY...

"...AND EARTH IS FALLING INTO ANOTHER ICE AGE.

WHAT TRANSPIRES ON YOUR FRONT, WARLOCK?

EARTH'S DEFENDERS HAVE FALLEN AND BEEN EXILED TO PARTS UNKNOWN.

PLEASE USE YOUR MYSTIC POWER, DR. STRANGE, TO LOCATE AS MANY AS YOU CAN, FOR LATER RETRIEVAL.

MEANWHILE, ETERNITY'S COSMIC BRIGADE HAS ENGAGED THANOS.

BY THE HOARY HOSTS OF HOGGOTH!

AN ENGAGEMENT OF THAT MAGNITUDE COULD--

THE POWERS UNLEASHED IN THE INITIAL CLASH ARE BEYOND THE POWER OF WORDS TO DESCRIBE.

MANY OF THE EDICTS OF NATURE FALL VICTIM TO THE ASSAULT.

I SENSE NEAR COLLAPSE ALONG THE ENTIRE SPECTRUM OF REALITY.

FEAR GROWS WITHIN MY HEART.

THE FEAR THAT I AM WITNESSING THE END OF THE UNIVERSE!

ENTIRE SOLAR SYSTEMS IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY ARE RAVAGED BY THE EFFECTS OF THIS CELESTIAL CLASH.

CALCULATING THE BILLIONS OF LIVES LOST AS A RESULT OF THIS CONFRONTATION WILL HAVE TO WAIT.

BUT EVEN IN THE MIDST OF SUCH DESTRUCTION, I AM AWESTRUCK BY MYSTERIES OF THE SOUL.

THE TITAN, EROS, FELT CERTAIN THAT DEATH WAS NEAR TO CLAIMING HIM-

THE ONLY THING GREATER THAN HIS SURPRISE AT FINDING HIMSELF AMONG THE LIVING...

"...IS DISCOVERING WHO HIS SAVIOR IS!

MISTRESS DEATH!

HER HATRED FOR THANOS MUST REACH UNFATHOMABLE DEPTHS!

I HAD NO IDEA IT WOULD BE SO...

YES... SHEER LUCK WE... SURVIVED...

TOO CLOSE.

WARLOCK! WHAT IS THAT?!

AN INTER-DIMENSIONAL DISTORTION CASCADE!

QUICKLY! WE MUST BE AWAY FROM HERE!

IF CAUGHT WITHIN ITS WARP-ING EMBRACE WE WILL BE LOST!

A PERILOUS UNIVERSE WHERE EACH SECOND REVEALS A NEW AND GREATER DANGER.

A DIMENSIONAL DISTORTION CASCADE SPIRALS TOO NEAR THE FRAGILE WORLD...

CASE IN POINT: THE PLANET EARTH, JARRED LOOSE FROM ITS ORBIT, AND DRIFTING AWAY FROM ITS SUN, IS ABOUT TO HAVE A NEW DOOM VISITED UPON IT-

...AND ITS WOES INCREASE A THOUSAND FOLD...

...AS INTERDIMENSIONAL SCAVENGERS, SUCH AS ANNIHILUS, SWARM DOWN UPON THE ONCE EMERALD JEWEL.

YET SUCH WORRIES SEEM HARDLY WORTH MENTIONING WHEN CONSIDERED IN CONTEXT.

FOR THIS UNIVERSE WAITS A MERE BREATH AWAY FROM ALL-ENCOMPASSING COSMIC DESTRUCTION.

A DOOM BIRTHED AND NURTURED WITHIN THE MAD AMBITIONS OF A BLACK SOUL.

THANOS DEFENDS HIS DIVINITY.

LET THE HEAVENS TREMBLE.

THE TWO CELESTIALS DRAFT HELPLESS PLANETS INTO THE CONFLICT, USING THEM AS WEAPONS OF WAR.

THE FACT THAT SOME OF THESE WORLDS ARE INHABITED BY SENTIENT LIFE CANNOT BE A CONSIDERATION IN THIS GALAXY-SPANNING CONTEST.

WITH THE SPEED OF THOUGHT THEIR MENACING POTENTIAL IS NEUTRALIZED BY POWER WITHOUT LIMIT.

BUT A SECOND LATER IT BECOMES APPARENT THAT THEIR SACRIFICE WAS BUT A PLOY, A DIVERSIONARY TACTIC.

FOR THE *TRUE THRUST* OF THE ASSAULT COMES FROM *CHRONOS*, WHO SEEKS TO *BURY* THE TITAN DEEP WITHIN LAYERS OF *TIME* LONG FORGOTTEN,

A FUTILE HOPE.

FOR ONE OF THE *INFINITY GEMS* ON THANOS'S GAUNTLET GIVES HIM *MASTERY* OVER THAT WHICH SEEKS TO *OVER-WHELM* HIM.

IT BE LIKE STRIVING TO *DROWN* AN *OCEAN*

YET DEFEAT IS ANSWERED WITH *RENEWED VIGOR*: A TWO-FRONT ASSAULT BY *LORD ORDER* AND *MASTER CHAOS*.

THEY HOPE TO *DICHOTOMIZE* THE TITAN,

A DIVIDED ENEMY IS AN *EASIER FOE* TO DEAL WITH.

BUT THANOS REFUSES TO SURRENDER HIS *INDIVIDUALITY*.

BOOM

AND THE BATTLE CONTINUES TO RAGE WITHOUT PAUSE-

FORCES COMBINED TO ADD UP TO MORE THAN THE SUM OF THEIR TOTAL-

THE TEMPORAL IS ABANDONED FOR PURE FORCE OF ENERGY.

AND THE SHEER INTENSITY OF GALACTUS, THE STRANGER AND EON'S BLITZKRIEG CATCHES THE MAD TITAN OFF BALANCE.

YET IT IS BUT A MINOR SETBACK FOR THANOS, ONE THAT CAN BE OVERCOME WITH A MERE WISH.

BY THE HEAVENS, WHAT AM I DOING?!

GIVING THOSE WRETCHES EXACTLY WHAT THEY DESERVE!

BUT THEY ARE MY HEAVENLY BROTHERS...

AND I WILL KILL THEM ALL!

THIS IS UTTER FOLLY!

THE UNIVERSE IS BEING DESTROYED BY THOSE SEEKING TO DEFEND IT!

SUCH INSANITY CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE!

AND HOW WOULD YOU STOP IT?

BY LOVE?

NO, I SHOULD HONOR AND CHERISH THEM!

WHAT MADNESS IS THIS!?!

CONFLICTING EMOTIONS... TEARING ME APART...

THIS CAN ONLY BE THE WORK OF--

--MISTRESS LOVE AND SIRE HATE!!

HOW DARE YOU TAMPER WITH ME SO?!

BE AWAY, BOTHERSOME MANIPU-LATORS!

BUT ALSO BEWARE DECEIVERS, TITAN...

HELL'S FIRE, WHAT?!

EXACTLY, MY LIEGE!!

MEPHISTO!

COME TO RELIEVE YOU OF YOUR BURDEN OF SUPREMACY!

A RESPONSIBILITY I AM NOT QUITE READY TO RELIN-QUISH, TRAITOR!

ACCKK!

YOU REVERTED TO TYPE PREMATURELY, DEVIL!

AN ERROR YOU WILL PAY FOR DEARLY!

WHAT?! WHO?

MISTRESS DEATH?

YOU TOO BETRAY ME?

I OFFERED YOU THE UNIVERSE...

NO!

'TIS TRULY BEST THIS WAY!

DIVINITY CALLS FOR CLEAR THINKING, UNBURDENED WITH CHAOTIC EMOTION.

LET ME BE RID OF ALL ILLUSIONS,

FOR I AM THANOS!

I AM SUPREME!!

WHO IS THERE TO ARGUE WITH THIS SENTIMENT?

THE GALACTIC DISRUPTION HAS ABATED!

BUT THE WAR CONTINUES,

DO NOT DELUDE YOURSELF INTO THINKING OTHERWISE.

THIS SHATTERED WORLD IN THE DISTANCE... I KNOW IT, HAVE VISITED IT...

IT WAS INHABITED!

THERE MIGHT WELL BE SURVIVORS AMIDST THE WRECKAGE!

WE MUST SEARCH THEM OUT!

I WOULD ADVISE AGAINST IT.

I BELIEVE I'VE HAD MORE THAN ENOUGH OF YOUR ADVICE, WARLOCK.

AS YOU WISH.

BY THE STARS!

IT'S JUST THAT A HEART, EVEN ONE AS STRONG AS YOURS, CAN ONLY TAKE SO MUCH.

THIS BERSERK CONFLICT MUST END...

NOT UNTIL THANOS IS STOPPED!

HE IS A NIHILIST.

UNLESS HIS REIGN TOPPLES, THIS FATE AWAITS THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE.

I HAVE BEEN EXPECTING YOU...

NOW THAT HIS FOOT SOLDIERS HAVE FALLEN... PROUD ETERNITY AT LAST DEIGNS TO SHOW HIMSELF!!

TO RECLAIM THAT WHICH IS MINE AND MYSELF!

CONTROL OF THIS REALITY!

A PRIZE I FOUGHT HARD TO GAIN AND ONE I SHALL NEVER ABANDON!

THEN LET US SEE WHICH ALMIGHTY BEING TRULY HAS THE TIGHTER GRIP ON THE FABRIC OF WHAT IS!

DEFEND YOURSELF, TITAN!

SURELY, THIS MUST BE THE END!

NO, THE OUTCOME OF YONDER COSMIC BATTLE IS ALREADY DECIDED.

HOW CAN YOU KNOW THIS?

I AM LINKED TO THE INFINITY GEMS IN WAYS EVEN I DO NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND.

THE MASTERY OF ALL ACTUALITY IS NOW FIRMLY IN THE GRASP OF ONE INDI-VIDUAL.

THANOS OR ETERNITY?! WHO PREVAILED?

ONE WHO ONLY LOSES WHEN HIS SUBCONCIOUS DESIRES BETRAY HIM-

YOU MEAN...

I DO.

AND IN THAT SLIM HOPE DOES SURVIVAL LAY-

MORE RIDDLES, WARLOCK?!

IS SPEAKING PLAINLY BEYOND YOUR ABILITY?!

PERHAPS.

DR. STRANGE, RETRIEVAL IS IN ORDER!

HOW GOES THE STRUGGLE?

POORLY.

HORRENDOUSLY.

THE NATURE OF ENERGY IS TO DISPERSE.

THE NATURE OF DESPOTS IS TO CONTAIN.

CONFLICTING TENDENCIES.

BY THE HEAVENS...

THANOS HAS SUCCEEDED IN IMPRISONING EVEN ALL-POWERFUL ETERNITY.

ALL IS LOST.

MASTER!

MY LOVER!

SPEAK TO ME!

WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME SAY, DEAR TERRAXIA?

THANOS HAS NOW THOROUGHLY USURPED ETERNITY'S RIGHTFUL POSITION AS THE CENTER OF ALL REALITY IN THIS SPHERE,

THIS WATCHER CAN ONLY CONCLUDE THAT A VALIANT EFFORT TO SAVE THIS PLANE OF EXISTENCE HAS FAILED.

SIRE, YOUR BODY?

NO LONGER NEEDED...

MAGNIFICENT THANOS HAS RID HIMSELF OF THE FLESH... HAS SHED ALL VULNERABIL-ITY!

AS HE DID ONCE BEFORE WHEN IN POSSESSION OF THE COSMIC CUBE.

THEN AS NOW, THANOS UNDERESTIMATED THE STRENGTH OF THE FLESH.

ESPECIALLY CHARRED FLESH, SPURRED ON BY HATRED.

DEEP WITHIN WITHERED NEBULA, VENGEANCE STIRS.

NO!

A SENSES SHATTERING RETURN TO THE *FLESH*.

MASTER... I COULD NOT... REACH HER IN TIME... I...

AND A REVERSAL OF DIRE FORTUNES.

NEBULA STEPS AWAY FROM THE EDGE OF OBLIVION!!

THE MANTLE OF PROVIDENCE RESTS NOW ON NEW SHOULDERS!

MY EVERY WISH IS BUT AN URGE AWAY!

AND YOU KNOW WHAT I YEARN FOR, DEAR THANOS?

REVENGE!

MASTER!

THE REINS OF POWER HAVE CHANGED HANDS.

HOW!?

OUR SITUATION HAS GONE FROM BAD TO WORSE!

THE NEWLY-CHRISTENED ALL-MIGHTY IS DERANGED FROM MONTHS OF PAIN AND ANGUISH.

STRANGE, I HAVE NEED OF YOUR MYSTIC TALENTS.

TRAPPED.

AND ALONE.

FOR I HAD NOT THE FORSIGHT TO CREATE TERRAXIA CAPABLE OF SURVIVING DEEP SPACE WITHOUT THE AID OF MY NOW-FORFEITED GODLY POWERS.

I SHALL MISS HER.

BUT SURVIVAL BE NOT A TREASURED PRIZE.

THIS BODY SHALL ENDURE LONG AFTER MY SPIRIT SUCCUMBS TO THIS EXILE NEBULA HAS BANISHED ME TO.

AN ETERNITY OF DRIFTING HELPLESSLY IN SPACE.

AN INFINITY TO MULL ON MY SINS AND FOLLIES.

WHAT?

A MYSTIC PORTAL-

WHO?

WELCOME TO MOTHER EARTH, TITAN-

ADAM WARLOCK?

WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT ME HERE?

A QUESTION I WONDER ABOUT MY-SELF!

SO THAT I MIGHT DESTROY YOU, VILLAIN!!

SURFER-- NO!

BACK, STRANGE!

NEITHER OF US HAS THE POWER TO SEPARATE THESE LUNATICS!

BUT YOU CAN SUMMON THOSE WHO DO!

WAY AHEAD OF YOU, ADAM-

I WAS ONLY ABLE TO LOCATE THESE *FIVE* BEFORE YOUR RETURN.

THEY WILL DO NICELY.

GENTLEMEN, IF YOU'D BE SO KIND...

NOW IF YOU TWO ARE QUITE *THROUGH*, YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN HOW *WE* MIGHT YET *SAVE* THIS UNIVERSE FROM *DESTRUCTION!*

WHICH IS EXACTLY WHERE IT'S HEADED WITH *NEBULA* IN CONTROL OF THE *GEMS.*

HER *INTELLECT* IS NOT UP TO *GODHOOD!*

SUDDEN *OMNIPOTENCE* WOULD BE A CRUSHING LOAD FOR EVEN THE *FINEST MIND.*

FOR NEBULA'S *SCARRED PSYCHE* IT MUST BE *OVERWHELMING.*

TOTAL *CONFUSION* REIGNS AS SHE STRIVES TO *ADJUST* TO THE DELUGE OF UNIVERSAL *SENSORY INPUT.*

SUFFERING THE *NIGHTMARE* OF ABRUPTLY BECOMING *AWARE* OF ALL *LIFE* AND *MATTER.*

MOST CERTAINLY THE THOUGHT OF *ESCAPING* INTO *CATATONIC OBLIVION* ENTERS HER CHAOTIC SOUL.

PRAY THAT SHE DOES NOT *SURRENDER* TO THE *URGE.*

FOR AN ENTIRE REALITY WOULD JOIN HER IN THAT DARK JOURNEY.

THEN IT IS AGREED, WE GO WITH MY DESIGN?

THIS PLAN STINKS OF RISK-

BUT I SEE NO ALTERNA-TIVE.

NOR DO I.

IN THAT CASE, A WORD ALONE WITH THANOS IS NEEDED BEFORE WE CAN PROCEED.

SO THAT YOU CAN SCHEME UP SOME NEW DEVILTRY AGAINST US?

I TELL YOU THIS WARLOCK IS OBVIOUSLY THANOS'S SECRET PARTNER!

TO THE DOOR, DOOM...

YOU FOOL, YOU WILL REGRET NOT HEEDING MY WARNING!

THEY USED TO BE COMRADES!

WELL, COMRADE, WHAT NOW?

STRAIGHT-FOWARD CONVER-SATION-

YOU KNOW WE NEED YOUR HELP TO OVER-COME NEBULA-

AND WHAT IF I WITHHOLD THIS AID--?

WHAT BENEFIT DO I REAP FROM NEBULA'S DEFEAT?

THE TRUTH?

WHAT TRUTH?

ABOUT YOUR-SELF,

YOU HAVE SOME SPECIAL INSIGHT INTO THIS MATTER?

YES,

I WAS PART OF THE SOUL GEM WHILE YOU POSSESSED IT-

WHICH PERMITTED ME ACCESS TO YOUR INNER HEART-

I KNOW YOU AS NO OTHER BEING IN THE UNIVERSE DOES,

BETTER THAN EVEN YOU DO YOURSELF!

LOOK BACK ONTO YOUR LIFE, THANOS OF TITAN, AND WHAT DO YOU SEE?

A MAN ALWAYS SEEKING ULTIMATE POWER AND LOSING IT AS SOON AS HE ATTAINS IT!

WHY?

BECAUSE DEEP IN HIS SOUL HE KNOWS HE IS NOT WORTHY OF IT.

THREE TIMES YOU HAVE TRIUMPHED OVER INCREDIBLE ODDS TO GAIN THE ENDS YOU DESIRE...

AND THREE TIMES YOU HAVE SUBCONSCIOUSLY SUPPLIED THE MEANS TO YOUR OWN DEFEAT-

YOU LET NEBULA WREST THE INFINITY GEMS FROM YOU JUST AS YOU ALLOWED CAPTAIN MARVEL TO SHATTER THE COSMIC CUBE!

NO. IT WAS A MISTAKE...

EVEN GODS ERR...

I DIDN'T...

I... I...

I WILL AID YOU.

BUT AFTERWARDS...

NO PROMISES.

NONE EXPECTED,

STRANGE, IS ALL IN READINESS?

FIGHT WELL, ASGARDIAN-

WE SHALL GIVE IT OUR ALL.

EVERYONE'S SET TO GO!

THEY HAVEN'T ONE CHANCE IN A MILLION FOR VICTORY.

THEY ARE WELL AWARE OF THAT FACT-

BUT WE DO.

YES, ONE IN A MILLION-

I BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND THANOS'S *HUNGER* FOR THIS *INFINITE MIGHT.*

TOMORROW IS MINE TO *SCULPT* TO MY FANCY.

THE *UNIVERSE* IS *CLAY* WAITING TO BE *MOLDED.*

NEVER AGAIN WILL I BE *VICTIMIZED* OR *SURPRISED*; FOR I HAVE SEEN MY EVERY *WAKING MOMENT* STRETCHING OFF INTO FOREVER!

IN FACT, A MOST *SATISFYING INSTANT* IS ALMOST UPON US.

ALREADY THE *MIST* BEGINS TO *PART.*

THE *FUTURE* CLEARS FOR ME,

AND SO DOES MY *DESTINY.*

IN EXACTLY *FIVE SECONDS* FROM NOW I WILL BE RECEIVING *VISITORS.*

TWO OLD FOES, AND THREE OTHERS WHOSE RECENT ACTIONS HAVE EARNED THEM MY ANIMOSITY!

THEY STRIKE AS ONE. THEIR COMBINED MIGHT COULD EASILY REND ASSUNDER A SMALL PLANET.

BUT AGAINST NEBULA AND THE INFINITY GEMS...

...THEY ARE NOTHING.

MERELY A *MOMENTARY* DIVERSION.

THEY ARE BUT *CHILDREN* SENT TO *PESTER.*

A *MEANS* TO ATTRACT MY *ATTENTION.*

THE *ARCHITECTS* OF THIS FRUITLESS ASSAULT ARE NOW *NOTICED* AND *TRACKED* DOWN BY MY *COSMIC* SENSES.

YOU'LL FIND THIS *INTERESTING,* EROS.

THERE ARE *THREE* WHO SEEK TO *CHALLENGE* MY *MIGHT.*

AND *ONE* OF THEM IS...

...YOUR BROTHER, THANOS!!

COME TO RECLAIM MY RIGHTFUL PROPERTY, WENCH-

WITH THE HELP OF YOUR TWO LITTLE FRIENDS?

YOU DIS-APPOINT ME, THANOS!

TWO LITTLE FRIENDS...?

I THOUGHT YOU'D MAKE YOUR LAST STAND ARMED WITH MORE THAN JUST EMPTY BRAVADO.

NEXT THE FINAL CONFRONTATION

***INFINITY GAUNTLET PREMIERE HC* COVER** BY GEORGE PÉREZ & HI-FI DESIGN

MARVEL COMICS

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CC 01769

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

THE INFINITY GAUNTLET™

THE FINAL BATTLE!

BENGI + JIM STARLIN
GEORGE PEREZ

"POWER!

IT IS A QUALITY THAT MUST BE CULTIVATED AND NURTURED.

"IT IS A REWARD TO BE EARNED THROUGH INTELLECT AND PATIENCE.

"IT CANNOT BE GAINED AND HELD THROUGH CHANCE.

"IN THE WRONG HANDS, IT WILL ONLY PROVE SELF-DESTRUCTIVE."

THE FINAL CONFRONTATION

JIM STARLIN WRITER | RON LIM PENCILS | JOSEF RUBINSTEIN INKS | MAX SCHEELE & EVELYN STEIN COLORS | JACK MORELLI LETTERS | CRAIG ANDERSON EDITOR | JOHN LEWANDOWSKI ASSISTANT EDITOR | TOM DeFALCO EDITOR N'CHIEF

ON A FREE FLOATING SATELLITE, MANY LIGHT YEARS FROM EARTH...

AND SO, DEAR NEBULA, EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE USURPED THAT WHICH IS RIGHTFULLY MINE, IT SHALL DO YOU LITTLE GOOD!

RETURN THE INFINITY GAUNTLET IMMEDIATELY, AND ALL WILL BE FORGIVEN!

NEBULA SAID "TWO LITTLE FRIENDS."

BUT THREE OF US ACCOMPANY THANOS!

I MIGHT EVEN APPOINT YOU MY CHIEF CONSORT, IF YOU BEHAVE YOURSELF-

A VERY TEMPTING OFFER, GRANDFATHER, BUT--

I TAKE THIS TO MEAN THAT MY KIND OFFER HAS BEEN REJECTED?

AS EVER, THANOS, YOUR KEEN INTELLECT AMAZES ME.

RIGHT THE FIRST TIME.

CONSORT, INDEED...

HE STANDS OUTSIDE...

...THE REALMS OF CHAOS AND ORDER.

NEBULA IS UNAWARE OF WARLOCK'S PRESENCE.

I SEE NO GOOD REASON YOU MIGHT HAVE FOR SMILING, OLD MAN.

WHICH CLEARLY ILLUSTRATES THE PATHETIC LIMITS OF YOUR OWN INTELLECTUAL CAPACITY.

YOU HAVEN'T THE VISION NECESSARY TO PROPERLY EXPLOIT THE INFINITY GEMS!

BUT YOU HAVE, I SUPPOSE...?

JUST LOOK AT WHAT I HAVE ACCOMPLISHED SO FAR.

GREAT DEEDS SUCH AS KILLING OFF HALF OF THE UNIVERSE?!

THINNING THE HERD.

SHEER INSANITY.

A GRANDEUR BEYOND YOUR COMPRE-HENSION!

SOPHISTRY!

YOUR REIGN AS A SUPREME BEING IS A BLASPHEMY WHICH CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO STAND!

AND BY THE POWER OF THE INFINITY GEMS I SHALL SEE THAT IT DOES NOT!

WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT I RETAIN POS-SESSION OF THE INFINITY GAUNTLET. LET EVERYTHING BE AS IT WAS--

--TWENTY FOUR HOURS AGO!

NO!

"THE WISH BECOMES REALITY.

"HALF THE UNIVERSE IS RESURRECTED..."

"...MERE MOMENTS AFTER ITS UNEXPECTED DEATH.

"MOST WILL REMEMBER NOTHING OF WHAT HAS OCCURRED.

"SOME WILL HAVE A NAGGING FEELING THAT SOMETHING IS OR WAS AMISS.

"WHILE OTHERS WILL REMEMBER, BUT THAT MEMORY WILL PROVE MADDENING.

"FOR IT WILL PUNCTUATE JUST HOW TRULY HELPLESS THEY ARE.

B-RING

"POWERLESS AGAINST A FORCE BEYOND THEIR COMPREHENSION.

"A WILL CAPABLE OF EITHER CAUSING GALACTIC GENOCIDE...

"...OR RETURNING A FROZEN PLANET TO ITS PROPER ORBIT.

"SO LET THERE BE CELEBRATION THROUGHOUT THE HEAVENS.

"FOR A FALSE GOD HAS FALLEN.

"THE REIGNS OF POWER ONCE AGAIN SHIFT HANDS,

"THE GAME CONTINUES.

"BEHOLD A NEW DAY DAWNING.

"AND A MERE WISH GAVE BIRTH TO THE REALITY."

FOR DEAR NEBULA WILLED THAT EVERYTHING BE AS IT WAS.

WHEN ONE HAS THE *POWER* OF A *GOD*, SHE SHOULD BE *VERY CAREFUL* ABOUT WHAT SHE *WISHES FOR.*

"*WISHES* ARE SOME-TIMES FULFILLED."

A *MISTAKE* EVEN THE WRETCHED THING THAT I *WAS* CAN RECTIFY WITH BUT A *THOUGHT.*

WHILE *YOUR ERROR*, OF GLOATING WHEN YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN GRASPING THE POWER YOU CRAVE, WILL *NOT* BE SO EASILY *REMEDIED.*

TOUCHÉ.

WHAT?

THE MAGICIAN.

WELL, WE'LL BROOK NO FURTHER *MISCHIEF* FROM YOU.

ANOTHER *ERROR* IN *JUDGMENT*, NEBULA.

BUT AGAIN ONE I PROMPTLY *RIGHTED*.

YOU HAVE BEEN TRULY *FORTUNATE* SO FAR.

BUT AS YOU ARE ABOUT TO *LEARN*, SOME MISTAKES ARE *WORSE* THAN *OTHERS*.

WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT IT, THEY RETURN TO *HAUNT* YOU.

THE COSMIC BEINGS!

WE'RE BACK IN SOUL WORLD!

WHY??

BECAUSE MY POWER IS GREATER HERE THAN ANYWHERE ELSE.

AND BECAUSE IT IS ALL PART OF THE PLAN.

THE THREAT TO THE UNIVERSE COULD NOT BE NEUTRALIZED UNTIL THE GAUNTLET WAS IN OTHER HANDS.

BECAUSE THANOS WOULD HAVE SENSED IT AND STOPPED YOU?

YES. NEBULA'S INEXPERIENCE AND CURRENT CONFUSION IS OUR ONLY EDGE.

FROM THE BEGINNING YOU KNEW THANOS WOULD LOSE THE GUANTLET?

BECAUSE I KNOW THANOS AND THE WAY HIS MIND WORKS.

SO WHAT NOW?

I DO WHAT MUST BE DONE.

BUT I WILL NEED YOUR ASSIST-ANCE.

IN WHAT FASHION?

CAN YOU NOT GUESS?

I AM IN NEED OF A SPIRITUAL ANCHOR.

IN ORDER TO FULFILL THAT FUNCTION, WE MUST...

"THE COSMIC ENTITIES HAVE LEARNT WELL FROM OUR INITIAL ENCOUNTER.

"THEY ATTACK NOW EN MASSE, RATHER THAN DIFFUSING THEIR MIGHT IN INDIVIDUAL EFFORTS.

"NEBULA'S BEWILDERMENT WITH OMNIPOTENCE AND HER LIGHT GRASP ON THIS NEW-FOUND POWER MUST BE SENSED BY THEM.

"THEIR STRATEGY IS OBVIOUSLY TO HAMMER HER WITH AN UNRELENTING ASSAULT.

"THUS KEEPING HER FROM CONCENTRATING ON A MULTI-LEVEL PLANE OF EXISTENCE.

"AND SO HER FULL STRENGTH IS NOT ALLOWED TO BE BROUGHT INTO PLAY.

"AS EXPECTED, NEBULA DOESN'T SEE THIS AND HAS FALLEN VICTIM TO THE PLOY."

OF COURSE SUCH A TACTIC WOULD HAVE PROVEN FUTILE AGAINST ME.

NOW YOU KNOW ALL THAT IS ADAM WARLOCK.

AND YOU, NORRIN RADD.

THE SCOPE AND PARTICULARS OF MY PLAN ARE NOW CLEAR TO YOU?

YES, BUT ILLUMINATION AND UNDER-STANDING ARE NOT ONE AND THE SAME-

I STILL CANNOT FATHOM YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THIS ENTIRE SITUATION...

"...TOWARD ALL LIFE IN GENERAL.

SO DETACHED,

EMOTIONAL NERVES CAUTERIZED, I SUPPOSE.

SOMEHOW, I MANAGE.

IT IS OF NO IMPORT AT THE MOMENT-

ONCE AGAIN, THE UNIVERSE NEEDS SAVING!

IT ALL SOUNDS RATHER *MUNDANE* WHEN SAID LIKE THAT, DOESN'T IT?

BUT THAT IS WHAT BEINGS LIKE *YOU* AND *I* DO; WE DE-FEND REALITY.

ESPECIALLY A REALITY IN WHICH A *SOUL* CAN *EXPAND* TO FILL A NEED.

AND PERHAPS CHANGE THE *FACE* OF THE *COSMOS!*

WHERE ONE SUCH A *I* CAN REACH OUT INTO THE *INFINITE*.

"IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE NEBULA GAINED THE UPPER HAND.

"SHE POSSESSES THE POWER INFINITE.

"WITH SUCH MIGHT, ANY DULLARD WOULD EVENTUALLY PROVE VICTORIOUS."

NOW EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON WARLOCK'S TIMING.

IT MUST BE PERFECT OR ALL IS LOST.

WARLOCK!

WHERE ARE YOU?

NOWHERE! EVERYWHERE! AT ONE WITH THE UNIVERSE OF THE SOUL GEM!

THANKS FOR THE LIFT, HANDSOME.

ANY TIME, GAMORA.

WHAT DID YOU SAY YOUR NAME WAS AGAIN?

IRON MAN.

NOT THE MOST CORDIAL OF FELLOWS, IS HE?

WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE, CHROME-DOME.

RUFFLES

WHAT'S THE STORY, PIP?

LOOKS LIKE THE BOSS'S PLAN IS RIGHT ON SCHEDULE.

YOU'RE BACK AMONG TH' LIVIN' N' BREATHIN'.

IN OTHER WORDS, NO WORD FROM WARLOCK.

RIGHT ON THE NOSE.

BUT YOU CAN BET YOUR BOTTOM DOLLAR IT'S ON ITS WAY.

BURP

RUFFLES

AND WHEN IT GETS HERE, IT'S GOING TO ARRIVE WITH A BANG.

IT'S ALMOST OVER...

FROM THE ONE

I REACH OUT TO THE FIVE!

ADAM...?

A NEW ORDER EXISTS WITHIN THE UNIVERSE!

ALL HAIL THE COMING OF --

OMNIPOTENT NEBULA!

ADAM, DON'T GET LOST OUT THERE.

IT'S SO EASY TO DO....

THANOS, BEAR WITNESS TO THE BIRTH OF AN ASTRAL DYNASTY WHICH WILL LAST MANY A MILLENNIUM, PERHAPS FOREVER.

WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THAT?

LET THERE BE...

...DISHARMONY!

ADAM, YOU'VE GOT TO COME BACK!!

ARRGH!

WHAT... IS... THIS...?

RETRIBUTION-

TIME TO CALL IN THE RESERVES-

DEAR NEBULA, YOU LEARN GODHOOD PROVES TO BE A MANTLE NOT EASILY WORN!

NOW OBSERVE HOW SUCH POWER SHOULD BE PROPERLY WIELDED!

STAY THY HAND, TITAN!

QUICKLY, MY FRIENDS!

THE GAUNTLET MUST NOT FALL INTO THANOS'S HANDS!

MINE!

No!

YOU IDIOT! I'M ON YOUR SIDE!!

LET THE CONFLICT END!

LOOKS LIKE THERE'S A NEW *SUPREME BEING* IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD_

AND *HE* WILL DEAL WITH *ALL MATTERS* IN HIS *OWN* FASHION.

THE GAUNTLET BELONGS TO ME!

YOU'D ONLY LOSE IT AGAIN, TITAN.

YOU DON'T REALLY DESIRE IT.

ARE YOU FOOLS GOING TO LET HIM GRAB THE POWER?!

WHAT RIGHT HAS HE TO IT??

THE RIGHT OF POSSESSION.

THAT IS ENOUGH.

THE INFINITE POWER IS NOW ADAM WARLOCK'S.

SEEK NOT TO DISPUTE THAT CLAIM.

I PROMISE TO USE IT WISELY,

BUT WHAT ABOUT THESE BOZOS?

THANOS IS MINE!

UNHAND ME, YOU DULL-WITTED BRUTES!!

KLIK

I SUGGEST YOU PUNY FOOLS PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN YOURSELVES AND MY PERSON.

WHAT?

A THERMAL NUCLEAR DEVICE ON MY PERSON, SET TO DETONATE IN 15 SECONDS.

WHY??

BECAUSE I WOULD PREFER DEATH TO IMPRISON-MENT!

PRIDE= MY ONE FATAL FLAW-

NO TIME TO DEACTIVATE THE BOMB!

STAND BACK!

WHAT A WAY TO GO!!!

EXACTLY WHAT I WOULD HAVE EXPECTED OF THANOS.

I, AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SOVEREIGN STATE OF TITAN, CLAIM CUSTODY OF NEBULA.

TITAN SHALL JUDGE AND IMPRISON HER-

SO BE IT.

WHAT?!

THE OTHERS...

GONE!

YET WE REMAIN-

WHY?

BECAUSE EACH OF YOU HAVE GAZED INTO THE DEPTHS OF MY HEART.

BEFORE YOU BECAME POWER INCARNATE,

IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE. MY SOUL IS KNOWN TO YOU-

GO FORTH AND TELL THE MASSES THAT ADAM WARLOCK IS A GOD WHO CAN BE TRUSTED.

I'M NOT SO SURE WE CAN TRUTHFULLY DO THAT-

THAT POWER CORRUPTS IS A TRUISM THAT CANNOT BE IGNORED!

YOU FEAR A COSMIC DESPOT?

SURELY YOU MUST REALIZE THAT EVEN BEFORE THANOS YOU LIVED UNDER SUCH TYRANNY.

BUT IT WAS A BENIGN REIGN, RANDOM AND UNFOCUSED.

AND NOW THAT IT IS CALCULATING YOU FIND THIS UNSETTLING?

AFRAID REPLACING YOUR USUAL CHAOS WITH ORDER MIGHT PROVE UNPALATABLE?

ALREADY, THE DISTANCE BETWEEN WHAT I WAS AND AM IS INSURMOUNTABLE-

LIKE AN ANT CONTEMPLATING THE COSMOS.

I KNEW IT WOULD BE SO...

...YET STILL I HOPED.

I GUESS THERE REALLY IS NOTHING LEFT TO SAY...

AMAZING!

WHAT'S HAPPENING, BIG GUY?

I BEGIN A JOURNEY MAPPED OUT AMIDST THE STARS.

'TIS A PATH I CANNOT STRAY FROM.

NICE PLACE IT'S LED YOU TO SO FAR-

WHERE THE HECK ARE WE?

60 DAYS INTO THE FUTURE ON AN UNNAMED PLANET.

IMPOSSIBLE.

THAT WORD NO LONGER HOLDS ANY MEANING FOR ME.

SO WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?

PAYING A VISIT.

ON WHO AND WHY?

WHY?

BECAUSE IT IS WHAT I ALWAYS DO AFTER BECOMING GOD.

ALWAYS?

TIME IS A REPEATING LOOP TO ME NOW.

LOOK!

"THANOS!"

MERELY AN EMPTY SHELL OF WHAT WAS.

A SCARE-CROW?

THERE IS NO HUMOR IN REALITY.

GREETINGS, THANOS.

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN I COULDN'T FOOL YOU.

YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING.

THAT HOUSE?

AS YOU WELL KNOW, THE UNIVERSE NO LONGER HOLDS ANY SECRETS FROM ME-

THE MEMORY IS DIM.

WHY HAVE YOU WAITED SO LONG TO GAIN VENGEANCE?

MUST YOU ALWAYS ASK THAT SAME QUESTION?

I SUPPOSE SO,

CONFUSING, ISN'T IT?

I SEEK NOT REVENGE,

ADVICE IS WHAT I CRAVE.

ENDURE OR SURRENDER THE POWER,

PUNY WORDS OF COMFORT,

AS YOU WELL KNEW THEY WOULD BE,

WHERE DOES THE SUPREME BEING GO FROM HERE?

TO CONFRONTATION, TO RESOLUTION AND THEN ON TO YET ANOTHER CONFRONTATION.

SUCH IS NOW MY LOT-

TIME HAS TAUGHT YOU THE FOLLY OF SUCH AN EXISTENCE, HAS IT NOT?

THREE FAILURES OF SUCH SCOPE ARE ENOUGH EVEN FOR ME.

A QUIET LIFE WILL ALLOW ME TO DIGEST AND INCORPORATE THE LESSONS THE PAST HAS FORCED UPON ME-

THEN I WISH YOU THE BEST OF LUCK, TITAN- FAREWELL.

WHAT??

YOU'RE NOT PLANNING ON *LEAVING* HIM RUNNING *FREE*, ARE YOU?

YOU *NUTS*?!

THE DUDE'S A *MONSTER*! THANOS IS—

MERELY A *PIECE*, LIKE ALL OTHERS, IN THE *MOSAIC* THAT IS MY *UNIVERSE*.

WITHOUT THANOS, THE PICTURE IS *INCOMPLETE*.

WELL, IF YOU SAY SO...

STILL THINK YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MIND...

"*POWER*.

"SUCH AN *EPHEMERAL COMMODITY*; HARD TO GAIN, EASY TO LOSE.

"AND I ONCE THOUGHT I *UNDERSTOOD* IT. WHAT *VANITY*.

"ADAM WARLOCK, A BEING WHO WISHED NOTHING MORE THAN TO SPEND THE REST OF HIS DAYS WITHIN THE PEACEFUL ENVIRONMENT OF THE SOUL GEM.

"HE NOW POSSESSES THE INFINITE POWER AND ALL THE RESPONSIBILITY THAT GOES ALONG WITH IT.

"WHILE I, WHOSE ENTIRE LIFE WAS DEDICATED TO THE PURSUIT OF POWER, NOW FIND MYSELF SCRAPING OUT A LIVING FROM THE SOIL.

"IRONY WORTHY OF THE DRAMA.

"YET STRANGELY ENOUGH THOUGH, I ENVY NOT ADAM WARLOCK.

"SOMEHOW I FEEL, THAT IN THE LONG RUN, THANOS OF TITAN CAME OUT AHEAD IN THIS PARTICULAR DEAL."

THE END

The *Infinity Gauntlet* event spawned several tie-in issues in other ongoing titles, which played off the main miniseries' events in both large and small ways. These tie-ins are arranged here in an approximate chronological order.

In *Cloak & Dagger #17*, Ghost Rider secretly watched as Cloak, Dagger and Spider-Man battled a Neo-Nazi cult who performed human sacrifices to open a dimensional portal. But when the portal finally opened, the heroes tumbled into Mephisto's domain!

TWO TEENAGERS WITH LATENT MUTANT ABILITIES WERE SUBJECTED TO INVOLUNTARY INJECTIONS OF A SYNTHETIC DRUG WHICH TRIGGERED—AND TWISTED—THEIR POWERS. TYRONE JOHNSON BECAME A LIVING PORTAL TO A DIMENSION OF DARKNESS! TANDY BOWEN BECAME A GENERATOR OF LIVING LIGHT! TOGETHER, THEY HAVE SWORN TO USE THEIR POWERS TO PROTECT OTHERS FROM BEING VICTIMIZED AS THEY WERE!

STAN LEE PRESENTS . . . CLOAK AND DAGGER!

THE NORTHERN ROCKIES IN COLORADO...

ALL THAT REMAINS OF COMMANDER THULE'S NEO-NAZI HAVEN--

--SCHAMBALLAH.

BUT FAR, FAR "BELOW" IT--

--THE TRUE SOURCE OF THIS EVIL HAS FINALLY REVEALED ITSELF TO CLOAK AND DAGGER, SPIDER-MAN, AND A TEENAGE GIRL NAMED ANNA.

MEPHISTO!

TH-THERE'S NO SUCH THING...!

YOU KNOW THIS..., CREATURE, SPIDER-MAN?

ALL KNOW ME IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER... ESPECIALLY YOU, DARKLING.

VRRRUM

HSSSs

HISS

HE JUST SW-SWALLOWED THULE WHOLE...

MY PAWN HAD OUTLIVED HIS USEFULNESS...

HSSSs

...AND HAS MET HIS MAKER.

MEPHISTO HAS TURNED HIS STOMACH TRANSPARENT--!

THULE'S BEING DIGESTED ALIVE...

"THE HEAT IS ON..."

VROOOM

TERRY KAVANAGH
WRITER
DAVID ROSS
PENCILER
SAM DELAROSA
INKER
BRAD K. JOYCE
LETTERER
NEL YOMTOV
COLORIST
DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

YOU...?!

THWIP

ONE EVER-POPULAR **WEB-NET** COMING RIGHT UP, GANG.

THE R-REBEL...?

ISSS IT TRULY HE?

WELCOME, GHOST RIDER.

IT COMES AS NO SURPRISE THAT THE BLOOD OF THULE'S TEENAGE VICTIMS IN NEW YORK WOULD DRAW THE "SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE" TO ONE OF THE DARKDOOR'S DIMENSIONAL WARPS...

I THINK I RAN INTO ONE OF THOSE MYSELF.*

...BUT I WOULD NOT HAVE EXPECTED YOU TO BE ABLE TO PILOT YOUR WAY BACK THROUGH THE "SCHWARZRAUM" TO MY DOMAIN.

A MOST ADMIRABLE FEAT, PRETENDER, BUT NOW THAT YOU HAVE ARRIVED...

...WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO?

Z-ZARATHOS...?

WHY ISN'T ME SAYING-- OR DOING--ANYTHING?

*CLOAK AND DAGGER #16, --DANNY

GHOST RIDER'S GOT A REAL FETISH ABOUT ONLY ACTING IN THE NAME OF VENGEANCE OR SOMETHING, ANNA--

--BUT RIGHT NOW HE'S THE LEAST OF ALL EVILS. LITERALLY.

YOU KNOW HIM, TOO?

I DO SEEM TO GET AROUND A LOT, DON'T I?*

AARK!

*SPIDER-MAN AND GHOST RIDER MET IN THE ALREADY CLASSIC SPIDER-MAN #64.--DAN

YOU'RE NOT LEAVING JUST YET, LITTLE MAN--!

THE STONE--IT CAME ALIVE AND IT'S GOT MY LEG!

SPIDER-SENSE WARNED ME OF THE DANGER IN TIME--BUT SHE GOT GRABBED!

I MAY ACTUALLY HAVE A USE FOR YOU ALL.

BEWARE, DAGGER, THE DEMON GESTURES IN OUR DIREC--

CLOAK--THE FLOOR...IT'S ALIVE!

HERE IN *MY* DOMAIN, MEPHISTO IS THE *ABSOLUTE MASTER* OF ALL.

ALTHOUGH ON YOUR *EARTHLY PLANE*, I ADMIT THAT I AM REQUIRED TO RESULT TO MORE...*PUERILE* TACTICS.

YOUR COMMANDER THULE (SERP) WAS A PERFECT *TOOL*.

I MERELY HAD TO COMBINE SOME *POP SCIENCE-FICTION NOTIONS* WITH THE DELUDED WOULD-BE DICTATOR'S PRECONCEIVED *RACIST DOGMA*...

...AND THULE HIMSELF CAME TO BELIEVE THAT "*THE VRIL*" IN "*THE SCHWARZRAUM*" WERE ACTUALLY AN *ALIEN SPECIES* THAT *ORIGINALLY POPULATED EARTH* WITH THEIR "*MASTER RACE*" EONS AGO.

THE DEMONS SEEM TO HAVE *OVERCOME* THEIR INITIAL FEAR OF US...

AFTER THAT, IT WAS *CHILD'S PLAY* TO MANIPULATE THULE INTO *SACRIFICING* THE NECESSARY LIVES TO OPEN THE *DARKDOOR* FOR "*THE VRIL!*"

YEEARL!

THEY'RE STILL SHYING AWAY FROM *ME*. MAYBE A LOW-POWERED *LIGHT-DART*--

ERK!

AKAKAKAK

EEEA!

HORRIBLE! THE ENERGY FROM MY LIGHT-DART IS *PASSING* FROM ONE DEMON TO ANOTHER, LIKE ...*ELECTRICITY*.

THULE UNKNOWINGLY GAVE MY *DEMON ELITE* FULL PHYSICAL *ACCESS* TO EARTH.

WAY TOO *MANY* OF THESE THINGS--LITERALLY *GROWING* RIGHT OUT OF THE WALLS... DROPPING FROM THE CEILING.

GET HIM!

GET HIM!

GOT HER!

SPIDEY--!

THULE'S *FASCIST REIGN OF TERROR* IN *NEW YORK* WAS HIS *OWN* INSPIRED IDEA.*

YOUR *LIGHT* HAS MADE THE ROCK ENCASING US *BRITTLE*, DAGGER...

AND NOW YOUR *STRENGTH* CAN *FREE* US, CLOAK.

KKOOSH

*A SOMEWHAT SUCCINT VERSION OF CLOAK AND DAGGER #s14-18.--DANNY

ACTUALLY, I'M QUITE *PROUD* OF MY UNWITTING DISCIPLE'S ACTIONS...THEY BROUGHT ME SOME *NEW TOYS*--

--AND SOME *OLD* ONES.

TCHIK

VROOM

REEET

YEEK!

AND NOW IT'S TIME TO *PLAY.*

THE DEMONS ARE GOING *WILD--!*

MY LIGHT-DARTS CAN'T STOP *ALL* OF THEM, SPIDER-MAN... GET TO CLOAK WITH THE GIRL--!

ANNA IS *SAFE* FOR THE MOMENT, DAGGER--BUT THE *GHOST RIDER* BEARS DOWN ON YOU FROM *BEHIND...*

YARK!

EERG...

GET US *OUT* OF HERE, CLOAK... *FAST!*

PROTECT ANNA AND SPIDER-MAN FROM MY *DARKNESS*, DAGGER, WHILE I *TELEPORT--*

YEEARGH!

I TOLD YOU I WAS MASTER OF *ALL* IN MY DOMAIN, DARKLING... THAT INCLUDES THE *DIMENSIONAL INTERSTICES.*

I DO NOT *ALWAYS* LIE...

...IF YOU CAN BELIEVE THAT.

BUT YOU WILL GO *NOWHERE* UNLESS I--

HOLD.

MEPHISTO PLAYS *MANY* ROLES IN THE *UNIVERSE* AND, AT THE MOMENT, MY PRESENCE IS... *REQUESTED* ELSEWHERE.

KILL THE MORTALS, MY DEMONS...

...BUT SAVE THEIR *SOULS* FOR ME.

VERY, VERY FAR AWAY...

AAAAH...

ZZAP

SKRAK

CARVING THIS PLANET IN MY LIKENESS IS JUST THE BEGINNING...!

ZZAP

SKRAK

SOON, ALL OF REALITY WILL BEAR THE MARK OF THANOS... AND DEATH, HERSELF, WILL LOVE ONLY ME!

I HAVE COME, GEM-HOLDER, AS YOU... COMMANDED.

PERHAPS I COULD INTEREST YOU IN THREE EXTREMELY UNIQUE LIFE-ENERGIES WHICH I HAPPEN TO HAVE AVAILABLE AT THE MOMENT--

FWISH

SILENCE, MEPHISTO... YOU ARE HERE ONLY AS WITNESS TO MY GRANDEUR.

WHAT CARE I FOR THE FATE OF THREE SOULS...

KRDOM

ZZAP

...WHEN THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE IS MINE TO CONTROL?!*

*SEE THE INFINITY GAUNTLET LIMITED SERIES, FOR MORE ON THIS. IT'S ON SALE SOON.--DANNY

WHILE...

NOW THAT MEPHISTO IS *GONE*, THE DEMONS HAVE *STOPPED REPLENISHING* THEIR RANKS FROM THE VERY WALLS...

BUT WE STILL HAVE PLENTY LEFT TO CONTEND WITH... AND IT LOOKS LIKE THE *STIFLING HEAT* AND *STENCH* ARE GETTING TO SPIDER-MAN AND ANNA.

FOR SOME REASON-- PERHAPS BECAUSE WE ARE MUTANTS -- WE SEEM MORE... RESISTANT.

RAAK!

AND INSIDE THE *ULTIMATE DARKNESS* OF MY CLOAK, THESE DEMONS WILL BE *REDUCED* TO --

B-BURSTING FREE ON THEIR OWN... *HOW?*

THE SSSHADOWSSS OF MEPHISSSTO'SSS DOMAIN ARE FAR *BLEAKER* THAN YOURSSS, HUMAN...

GET THE GIRL.

EASSSY PREY...

ENOUGH.

ACK!

P-PLEASE... NO...

NOW...

...VENGEANCE CAN BE *SERVED.*

THE GIRL IS *INNOCENT*, GHOST RIDER--WHAT HAVE YOU *DONE* WITH HER?

ONCE HER *BLOOD* WAS SPILLED, MY PATH WAS *CLEAR*.

THE DEMONS WILL SUFFER MY *WRATH*...

>ERK<

...WHILE, FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS, MY *MOTORCYCLE* CARRIES THE GIRL YOU CALL ANNA *OUT* OF THIS DARK PLACE TO SAFETY.

OH, MY LORD... I'M HEADING STRAIGHT FOR THAT WALL--

NO... THERE'S SOME KIND OF *TUNNEL* THAT I COULDN'T SEE UNTIL MY ANGLE WAS *HEAD-ON*.

EEAG!

SPIDER-MAN'S BEING *TORN APART*... BUT MY VERY TOUCH *BURNS* THESE CREATURES VIOLENTLY.

MINE...

MINE!

MINE!

I HOPE I DON'T *KILL* ANY OF THESE THINGS... BUT SPIDER-MAN'S ONLY IN DANGER BECAUSE OF *US*.

HE'S HERE TO PROTECT *ME*...

...BUT NOW HE HAS TO BE MY *FIRST PRIORITY*.

THERE--THAT'S THE LAST OF THEM, FOR *NOW*.

UKK... UKK...

MEPHISSSTO...

SSSAYSSS...

HSST

DIE!

HSSS

SKREEE

HSST

SKREET

HSSS

THANKS FOR THE *RESCUE*, BRIGHT-EYES...

...BUT THIS DANCE IS *MINE*.

SPIDER-MAN... *NO!*

SORRY, DAGGER, BUT "*IDLE HANDS ARE THE DEVIL'S WORKSHOP*..."

ER... NO OFFENSE, GUYS.

KRAK

HSST

WOK

AND IF *SPIDER-MAN* STOPS TO THINK ABOUT *WHERE* HE IS AND *WHAT* HE'S FIGHTING FOR TWO SECONDS, *PETER PARKER* IS LIABLE TO *CRACK UP*.

HAVE TO SUMMON ALL MY *LIGHT* AND--

SKRAK

EH--?

THE GROUND IS *QUAKING*...

KILL THE LIGHT.

KILL THE LIGHT.

KILL THE LIGHT.

...AND NOW THE DEMONS SEEMS TO HAVE DECIDED THAT I'M THE *MAJOR THREAT* HERE.

RAK!

CLOAK IS WITH YOU, DAGGER.

HSST

SKREEE

ONE FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD *SPIDER-MAN* RIGHT BEHIND HIM.

THWIP

HSSS

AS EVER, I STAND...

KLUD

THWIP

THWIP

...WITH THE *VICTIMS*--

HSST

--NOW VICTIMS NO *LONGER!*

TCKINKK KKKK

MEANWHILE, IN NEW YORK CITY--AT THE APARTMENT BUILDING OF DAGGER'S STEP-FATHER...

ZOOM IN ON THE KIDS' BODYBAGS, EDDIE, THEN WE'LL TALK TO--

HOLD IT, VULTURES! BACK BEHIND THE BARRICADES!

COME ON, OFFICER, THIS IS BIG NEWS EVEN IN WARTIME...! HOW OFTEN IS AN ENTIRE FAMILY MURDERED IN THEIR SLEEP--

--BY THEIR KINDLY OLD GRAND-MOTHER?!

WE GOT A FULL CONFESSION.

OHGOD OHGOD OHGOD...

...NOT THEM... NOT THEM...

...THE BLOOD THE BLOOD THE BLOOD...

TAKE IT EASY, MA'AM.

I'VE JUST BEEN SO DEPRESSED LATELY...

BEEP

HONK

TWEET

NYC EMS

WASN'T THIS SQUAD CAR HERE ALREADY WHEN WE ARRIVED?

ACCORDING TO DISPATCH, IT WAS ISSUED TO DETECTIVES BRIGID O'REILLY AND RUSTY NALES.

KRAKA-THOOM

DOORMAN'S FREAKING OUT--SAYS THERE'VE BEEN THREE SUICIDES ON HIS SHIFT THIS MONTH ALONE--BUT HE REMEMBERS O'REILLY AND NALES GOING INTO THE BUILDING A COUPLE OF HOURS AGO.

THE LIGHTNING...

HOLY--!

SCREECH

KRANG

TURN 'ER AROUND FAST, LEN--WE'RE GOING TO HAVE MAJOR INJURIES HERE...

IT'S STILL FLOATING IN MID-AIR--!

THAT ONE A-APARTMENT...

INSIDE...

I'M GOING TO BE SICK, RUSTY...

HOLD ON, BRIGID... MAYBE AVANDALIA AND HER PAL HAVE SOMETHING BETTER FOR DESSERT.

THEY'RE MAKING US WAIT FOR MY STEP-DAUGHTER--T-TANDY BOWEN.

WE HAVE RESERVED A SEAT FOR DAGGER...

BUT CLOAK SHALL BE OUR GUEST OF HONOR, AVANDALIA.

THE HUMANS BELOW SUFFER MUCH FROM MY DISPLAY.

FINE...

...AND NOW THAT I HAVE MADE THE LOCATION MORE TO MY LIKING...

...I WILL SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT THE COMPANY.

HE'S... MUTATING ME INTO--

DEAR LORD, NO... IT CAN'T BE HAPPENING AGAIN...

MEANWHILE...

I WAS AFRAID OF THIS... I'M TOO LATE. THERE'S NO SIGN OF ANYONE LEFT ALIVE IN SCHAMBALLAH--

WAIT... SOMETHING'S STIRRING IN THE RUINS-- COMING RIGHT TOWARDS ME.

A GIRL ON A... FLAMING MOTORCYCLE?!

COULD IT BE...?

NO--SHE'S BLACK.

S-SO HOT... H-HELP... CLOAK...

NAME'S ERICH.

HER WHOLE BODY'S SHIVERING...

COMMANDER THULE WOULD WANT A LOYAL MEMBER OF HIS RACIALLY-PURE ARMY TO JUST ABANDON HER...!

I CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT THE STRANGE MOTORCYCLE IS RETURNING TO WHEREVER IT CAME FROM.

VROOM

BUT WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN FOR TANDY BOWEN-- THE ANGEL KNOWN AS DAGGER?!

GOOD QUESTION...

HSSS

THE DEMONS ARE IN A BLOOD FRENZY!

THEN WE WILL GIVE THEM EXACTLY WHAT THEY WANT.

WHUD

THUD

HSST

WHOK

SKREEK

SKREEEE

GRAAAG!

MY *PENANCE STARE* WILL RETURN ALL THE *PAIN* YOU HAVE INFLICTED ON OTHERS--

ERK...

Agh...

YEEEK!

--AND DEMONS HAVE MORE *SINS* THAN MOST TO MAKE UP FOR.

COVER ME, SPIDER-MAN-- I'VE GOT A DESPERATE IDEA--!

THAT'S AN *UNDER-STATEMENT...* YOU'RE WASTING A POWERFUL ENERGY BLAST ON *EMPTY* GROUND--

KRA TZ

SKRAKA

HSST

OH, I GET IT NOW.

KRAK

HSST

SKREEE

TOOM

WHOP

KRAK

REEET

HSST

I'LL DRIVE THEM *ALL* INTO THE *CHASM* OPENED BY MY LIGHT.

NEVER SEEN DAGGER SO *BLOOD-THIRSTY...!*

AND A FEW MORE WELL-PLACED *LIGHT-MORTARS...*

...SHOULD *TRAP* THE NASTY THINGS DOWN THERE FOR *GOOD!*

KRATZ

KRATZ

DAGGER?

WHUMP

THE DEMONS ARE TRULY GONE...

...BUT THIS *INFERNAL REALM* ITSELF NOW *JOINS* THE BATTLE.

FWOOM

THAT WALL IS *TOPPLING* TOWARD ME...

...BUT THE FLOOR *QUAKES* AND *ROLLS*. TOO MUCH FOR ME TO--

KRUNCH

RRRUUUMMMBBLLE

FWOOSH

YIKES--THE WALL I WAS CLINGING TO JUST BURST INTO *FLAMES!*

BUT NOW THE GROUND IS YAWNING *WIDE OPEN* RIGHT UNDER ME...

SKRA

AAAK

...AND THE FIRE DOWN BELOW MAKES ALL THE REST LOOK LIKE *BUNSEN BURNERS.*

INCREDIBLE. MY BODY IS NO LONGER ANY MORE *SUBSTANTIAL* THAN THE SHADOWS OF THE NIGHT...*

*SINCE HE "LOST" HIS DARKFORM LAST ISSUE. --DANNY

...AND MY *CLOAK* CAN EASILY SLIP THROUGH THE SPACES *BETWEEN* THE DEBRIS.

CAN'T TRUST *ANCHORING* MY *WEB-LINE* TO ANYTHING IN THIS PLACE...

EXCEPT MAYBE--

--THE EVER-STURDY CLOAK.

HOLD ON, SPIDER-MAN...

...MY CLOAK WILL STEADY US BOTH.

RRRUUUMMMMMBBBLLLE

SPRINGING UP FROM THE FLOOR--!

KRAOK

A NEW WALL...

THIS PLACE SEEKS TO SEPARATE US FROM YOUR ALLIES, DAGGER.

TCHINK

ONLY IF WE LET IT.

FLAAT

YYYEEEAARRRGGGHHHH

WHATEVER THEY'RE DOING... IT'S WORKING!!

GHOST RIDER-- LOOK OUT!

THE WALL ALMOST APPEARS TO BE... BLEEDING FIRE. CRYING OUT IN AGONY--!

WE HAVE... HURT MEPHISTO'S DOMAIN ITSELF--

--AND NOW IT MEANS TO RETURN THE PAIN IN KIND.

THIS SUDDENLY-MOLTEN *LAVA* SEEKS TO DRAW ME UNDER AND ENGULF ME AS IF IT WERE *QUICKSAND*...BUT--

VROOM

--WITH THE RETURN OF MY *MOTORCYCLE*--

TCHINK

VRROOOOOOOOOOOOMM

--I *WILL NOT* BE STOPPED THAT *EASILY.*

C-CRUSHING... ME...

LUCKILY, THIS PLACE--AND EVERYTHING IN IT--SEEM PARTICULARLY SUSCEPTIBLE TO *MY* POWERS.

MY LIGHT'S RUNNING *LOW*...

...BUT IT'S STILL ENOUGH TO DO THE JOB--!

THESE STONE HANDS ARE TOTALLY *PETRIFIED.*

KROOM!

HOLY--!

INAPPROPRIATE, SPIDER-MAN.

OUR COMBINED ABILITIES FINALLY BROUGHT DOWN THE WALL, GHOST RIDER.

AND NOW THE ENTIRE CAVERN HAS CEASED ITS ATTACK, DAGGER.

THEN HOW ABOUT WE FINISH THIS DISCUSSION. SOMEWHERE ELSE?

FOLLOW ME.

I REALLY WISH YOU HADN'T SAID THAT, CLOAK.

THIS ALL SEEMS TOO SIMPLE--!

DID YOU MISS ME?

THANKS TO MY...CAVALIER OFFER, THANOS DID NOT KNOW *WHAT* HE WAS MISSING WHEN HE PASSED UP *YOUR* SOULS.

HE *CAN'T* BE-- HE *ISN'T* GOING TO--!

THE DARK ONE'S *EDGE* WILL TASTE UNIQUELY,,, *SPICY.* AND THE BRIGHT ONE'S *INNOCENCE* WILL TASTE PARTICULARLY,,, *FRESH.*

YOU WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO STOMACH DAGGER'S *PURITY,* MEPHISTO.

DO NOT FOOL YOURSELVES... SHE IS HARDLY *THAT* PURE ANYMORE.

:ERRK: R-RIBS ARE GOING,,, TO *C-CRACK...*

AND THE M-MONSTER JUST :ACK: *S-SWALLOWED* CLOAK AND DAGGER,,,

BUT MEPHISTO'S IGNORING *US* COMPLETELY, SPIDER-MAN.

A MISTAKE HE WILL REGRET.

VRUM

:UHFF: BETWEEN MY *SCIENCE-SPAWNED SPIDER-STRENGTH* AND YOUR... *WHATEVER-SPAWNED INHUMAN POWER,* GHOST RIDER--

--WE ARE *FREE!*

ER... GHOST RIDER?

MEPHISTO'S STILL NOT REALLY PAYING ANY ATTENTION TO US, GHOST RIDER--

--BUT WE HAVE TO TRY AND *HELP* CLOAK AND DAGGER!

VROOOM

STAY *WITH* ME, DAGGER...

WANT...

GOTTA...

MUST...

...OUR NIGHTMARE HAS JUST *BEGUN.*

CLOAK--! THEY'RE ALL *DRUG ADDICTS*...BEING *EATEN AWAY* FROM INSIDE...JUST *TEENAGERS* LIKE US...

MORE...

NEED...

GIMME...

MEPHISTO HAS TURNED HIS *STOMACH* INTO OUR OWN *PERSONAL NIGHTMARE!*

AAGH! DIGESTIVE ACIDS--?!

MY CLOAK WILL *SHIELD* YOU, DAGGER...

...BUT FOR *HOW LONG?*

THIS IS TOO HORRIBLE...

AAAIIIEEEEEEEE!!

YOU--?!

WHAT...?!

I THOUGHT--I PRAYED--THAT I WAS FREE OF IT... *FOREVER!*

LAST OF MY LIGHT DIDN'T EVEN SLOW IT *DOWN*...

...WHAT *IS* IT, CLOAK?!

AAAIIEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!!

IT IS MY *DARKFORM*--MY *BODY!*

AND, AS I ALWAYS *FEARED*...

...IT IS *TOTALLY INSANE.*

BUT TO *PROTECT* THE *LIGHT* OF MY LIFE--

AAAIEEE!..

--I MUST *EMBRACE* THE *DARK*...

...AND *ACCEPT* MY TRUE *FORM*, REPLETE WITH THE *EVIL* IT CONTAINS.

CLOAK IS *WHOLE* ONCE AGAIN...

SSST

SSST

...AND A *LESSER MAN* FOR IT.

CLOAK--THE *FLOOR* OF MEPHISTO'S STOMACH IS... *BLISTERING* FROM YOUR TOUCH.

SSST

SSST

RRU-MBB

SOMETHING'S HAPPENING...

GRK

BUT IF MEPHISTO CANNOT HAVE YOU,...

...THEN NO ONE SHALL.

YOU TASTE OF AN...OTHER DEMON'S PRIOR CLAIM, DARKLING.

ELSEWHERE...

ARE YOU CRAZY, GHOST RIDER?! TURN THIS THING AROUND! WE HAVE TO GO BACK FOR CLOAK AND DAGGER-- AND I CAN'T GET BACK WITHOUT YOU!

VENGEANCE WILL BEST BE SERVED... LATER, SPIDER-MAN.

VROOM

BUT WE DON'T EVEN KNOW FOR SURE THAT THEY'RE DEA-

KA-ROOM

VROOM

OH, LORD...

ERICH'S ACTUALLY BEEN NURSING ME--

NEVER MIND US...WHERE'S DAGGER?!

ANNA AND...THE YOUTH ARRESTED IN NEW YORK CITY.

AND HOW DO YOU KNOW ERICH?

I WAS THERE.*

SKREEEECH

*THE LURKING FIGURE ON PAGE 1, LAST ISSUE.--DANNY

THANKS TO OLD SKULL AND FLOSSBONES HERE...

...CLOAK AND DAGGER ARE BEYOND ANYONE'S HELP!

WHERE ARE WE?

KRAWWWT

USE YOUR POWER.

WE HAVE BEEN *DRAWN* TO THE... *OTHERDARK* THAT SWEEPS ME AWAY IN TIMES OF *EXTREME DANGER* OF LATE.*

MY *LIGHT* IS *BACK*... FULLY RECHARGED!

I CAME THROUGH HERE MYSELF VIA THE *SCHWARZRAUM.***

*ISSUE #14, **ISSUE #16.--DANNY

YOUR LIGHT-DARTS ARE BEING *SUCKED* THROUGH THAT... "*WHITE HOLE*," DAGGER.

IF IT'S A *FOCAL POINT* OF THIS... DIMENSION, CLOAK, IT COULD ALSO BE THE *SOURCE* OF ALL THE *UNEXPLAINED THINGS* THAT HAVE BEEN HAPPENING TO--AND AROUND-- YOU LATELY.

IF SO, MANY MYSTERIES ARE ABOUT TO BE *SOLVED*...

WE'RE BEING *PULLED THROUGH!*

DAD AND RUSTY AND... *MAYHEM--?!* BRIGID'S BECOME *MAYHEM?!*

AVANDALIA...!

NO, BRIGID, PLEASE...

TO OUR HONORED GUESTS-- CLOAK & DAGGER--

--ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR *LAST MEAL!*

NEXT ISSUE: THE AWESOME CONCLUSION TO THE "EYE OF FORCE" SAGA!

(OH, YEAH--AND THE LAST ISSUE OF *CLOAK & DAGGER*, TOO.)

17
DEC

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

AT THE HAND OF THANOS™!
THE DEATH OF...

SPIDER-MAN®

YOU WILL BELIEVE A MAN CAN DIE!

LEONARDI

GOTTA PICK UP MARY JANE.

GOTTA GET THE BARBEQUE SAUCE TO AUNT MAY'S.

HOPE THAT LAST RENT CHECK ISN'T A RUBBER ONE.

GOTTA FILL UP ON WEB FLUID.

UH-OH.

THERE--! A DISASTER IN THE MAKING!

ONE READY-MADE HERO TO THE KNEE-JERK RESCUE!

THWIP!

Stan Lee PRESENTS:

NO ONE GETS OUTTA HERE ALIVE!

ANN NOCENTI - WRITER
RICK LEONARDI - PENCILS
AL WILLIAMSON - INKS
CHRIS ELIOPOULOS - LETTERS
GREGORY WRIGHT - COLORS
DANNY FINGEROTH - EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO - CHIEF

HAND MOMMA A CLOTHESPIN, BABY.

WOW!

YOU HEAR ME, GIRL?

OH, LORD.

OH, LORD.

DOUBLE SHOT OF SHARP-SHOOTIN' WEB-LINE'LL DO THE TRICK -- PIECE A' CAKE.

I COULD DO THIS GIG IN MY SLEEP.

HOPE I DON'T DROP THE BARBEQUE SAUCE.

FWTHIP!

STHWIP!

WUNK!

THUNK!

BE RIGHT BACK, GUYS!

I GOTTA SNAG YOUR PLATFORM--!

SPIDER-SENSE!

THAT COOLING-MACHINE! IT'S GONNA HIT -- OH, LORD, IT'S FULL OF *FREON*!

THAT WOMAN--

I'M TOO LATE!

DON'T MOVE!

I'LL SHIELD YOU!

KU-

TOOSH!

ANGELINA!

MOMMA!

HE HASN'T SPENT YEARS SAVING LIVES FOR NOTHING.

OR MAYBE HE HAS.

BUT IN LESS THAN A HEARTBEAT, SPIDER-MAN KNOWS MANY THINGS:

THAT HE BLEW THIS ONE.

THAT SOMETHING IN HIS STOMACH ROLLS OVER, AND HIS GUT LURCHES LIKE AN OVER-STUFFED SACK OF SINS.

THAT HE'S TOLD ONE JOKE TOO MANY; THAT HE'S JUST BURST OPEN HIS LIFE; THAT HE'S A BLUSTERING, OVERCONFIDENT, CAVALIER JOKESTER BUFFOON.

THAT SOMEBODY'S GOING TO DIE.

HE HEARS HIS OWN VOICE: "GET IN FRONT OF ME!" "I'LL PROTECT YOU!" HE HEARS HIS VOICE AS STRAINED, DESPERATE, AN OLD MAN'S THIN WHINE.

IN HIS HEAD, HE HEARS A HIGH CHILD'S PITCH SQUEAL: "HAVE NO FEAR, SPIDER-MAN'S HERE!"

ALL THIS, IN THE SPACE OF A HEARTBEAT, JUST BEFORE THE SKIN SPLITS OFF HIS FACE...

HIS LIPS AND GUMS ROLL BACK TO SPIT OUT THE SINS...

THE SINS HIS GUT, SO SICK OF ITSELF, HAS JUST CHUCKED OUT...

AND IT TURNS INTO ONE RELENTLESS SCREAM...

IT IMPACTS LIKE A TRAIN WREAK.

THE ICY FREON WRAPS SPIDER-MAN'S MORTAL FLESH IN A CRYOGENIC CRYPT.

THE SHOCKBLAST PEELS HIS COSTUME OFF HIS FACE AND LIMBS, AND ICICLE FINGERS REACH TO CARESS HIS HEART.

HTZ

SPUTZ

TEN SECONDS BEFORE HIS HEART STOPS, SPIDER-MAN THINKS: "I CAN'T BE DYING, MY LIFE ISN'T FLASHING BEFORE MY EYES... BUT THAT MIGHT BE BECAUSE MY EYEBALLS FEEL LIKE PEELED GRAPES."

FIVE SECONDS BEFORE HIS HEART STOPS, HE THINKS: "THAT WASN'T FUNNY. WHY MUST I END MY LIFE WITH ANOTHER JOKE? THERE ARE NO MORE JOKES."

SPLUPTZ

TWO SECONDS BEFORE HIS HEART STOPS, HE REMEMBERS A BUDDHIST PARABLE ABOUT TIGERS AND STRAWBERRIES; "HOW DID THAT STORY GO?"

HIS HEART, BY NOW A SMALL FRIGHTENED MOUSE CRINGING INSIDE HIS RIB CAGE, FEELS THE FIRST FINGERTIP OF ICE.

HE HITS THE ROOF.

HE LOOKS BEAUTIFUL, AND AT PEACE.

OH. I REMEMBER.

A MAN IS CHASED BY TIGERS TO THE EDGE OF A CLIFF. HE FLINGS HIMSELF OFF, HANGING BY A STRAWBERRY VINE. HE SEES ANOTHER HUNGRY TIGER BELOW HIM.

HE HEARS A NIBBLING SOUND, AND SEES TWO MICE CHEWING THROUGH THE VINE.

HE PICKS A STRAW-BERRY, PUTS IT IN HIS MOUTH, AND LETS GO OF THE VINE.

HOW SWEET IT TASTED!

WELL. YOU DIDN'T LIVE LIKE THAT, AND YOU DIDN'T DIE LIKE THAT.

WORRY, WORRY, WORRY. THAT'S ALL YOU DID.

EVEN NOW, I FEEL HIM WORRYING ABOUT SAVING SOMEONE.

NO. THE WOMAN'S FINE.

POOR PETER PARKER.

YOU JUST DIDN'T GET IT, DID YOU?

STRANGE. DEATH IS SO... INDIFFERENT.

I FEEL SO PEACEFUL! AND SO HAPPY.

HUH. FUNNY. DEATH IS JUST NO BIG DEAL.

JUST A SIMPLE, GENTLE STEP.

I FEEL BAD ABOUT MY BODY, THOUGH. POOR GUY.

HE TRIED SO HARD, BUT HE REALLY DIDN'T GET IT, DID HE?

I COULD SHOW HIM, HOW EASY IT COULD BE...

EMOTIONS... THEY'RE ALL THE SAME JUICE.

YOU CAN SLIP FROM WORRY TO ANGER TO LOVE TO JOY SO EASILY!

BUT NO ONE DOES. THEY STAY STUCK IN THE BAD JUICE, LIKE SADNESS, OR LIKE PETER, STUCK IN WORRY AND GUILT.

LIKE HE'S GOT A BIG BURDEN ON HIS BACK, BUT IF HE COULD ONLY TURN AROUND AND SEE THE BURDEN IS ONLY WINGS!

WE'RE PRISONERS, WHO CAN'T SEE THEIR OWN WINGS.

HUH ?

A BABY'S SCREAM ! AND...

WHAT'S THAT ? *MOM !*

MOM ! ? IS THAT YOU ?

GONE.

:SIGH:

I STARTED LIFE WITH A SCREAM AND ENDED WITH A SIGH.

WOW-- I WONDER IF I'LL SEE *HER* UP HERE.

STRANGE. I THOUGHT I LOVED MARY JANE. BUT NOW... ALL I CAN THINK OF IS *MY* FIRST... MY ONLY... MY BEAUTIFUL GWEN STACY.

IT'S GETTING SO BRIGHT... WOW ! LOOK AT THAT !

A LIGHT SO WHITE !

I'VE HEARD ABOUT THIS ! PEOPLE WHO HAVE NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCES TALK OF SEEING A BRILLIANT WHITE LIGHT.'

OH, IT'S BEAUTIFUL ! I'VE GOT TO GO TOWARDS IT !

WAIT--I HEAR SOMEONE CALLING ME !

OVER HERE ?

GOD?

CROSSES, JEWISH STARS, BONES... WHAT IS THIS PLACE ?

LIKE A RELIGIOUS JUNKYARD, GRAVEYARD..

OH LOOK ! KING ARTHUR'S SWORD ! EGYPTIAN SCROLLS... VOODOO MASKS... BUDDHAS... IT'S EVERY-BODY'S AFTERLIFE !

ALL THE MOST POTENT SPIRITUAL TALISMANS... BUT IN JUNK HEAPS-- THEY MIGHT AS WELL BE BUSTED TOASTERS AND CRACKED BATHTUBS FOR ALL THE POWER THEY HAVE NOW.

SO THIS IS IT. THIS IS WHAT YOGIS WALK HOT COALS FOR AND PRIESTS GIVE UP... UM... *FUN* FOR, AND WHAT HIPPIES TAKE DRUGS FOR, AND WHAT MUSLIMS SELF-FLAGELLATE FOR...

THEY ALL DO IT TO FIND ENLIGHTENMENT, TO FIND GOD, AND TO ANSWER THE *BIG* QUESTION. ABOUT AFTERLIFE.

OR... IS THIS ONLY WHAT I WANT TO SEE ?

HUMBLING, ISN'T IT, PETER PARKER.

COME. TAKE YOUR LAST LOOK BACK.

EVERYONE GETS *ONE* LAST LOOK.

COME, SPIDER-MAN.

DEATH AND I, WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.

THANOS...?

YES, THANOS!

I THOUGHT YOU WERE... *DEAD.*

THE IDEA IS... IRRELEVANT.

YOU, PETER PARKER, IT IS *YOU* WHO ARE DEAD.

WHEREAS I *SERVE* DEATH.

I *LOVE* DEATH, I *WIELD* DEATH, I *CREATE* DEATH.

BUT I CANNOT *DIE*.

UH... I SEE THE DIFFERENCE.

SO... UH, DOES EVERYONE GET THIS CHEERY WELCOME WAGON?

NO. ONLY THOSE SUCH AS YOURSELF, WHO FLIRTED WITH THE *FUTILITY* OF BEING A HERO.

FUTILITY?

YOU TRIED TO SAVE LIVES, DIDN'T YOU? LIVES THAT WERE ALREADY *CLAIMED* BY DEATH?

UH, YEAH, BUT...

LIVES THAT WEREN'T *YOURS*...

WELL, SURE, I...

PLAYING AT BEING A *GOD*...

NOT EXACTLY...

PRESUMING TO ALTER *FATE*...

NOT PERSONALLY...

LOOK BACK!

UH, YES, SIR.

YOU WHO CALLED YOURSELF A *HERO*--

--LOOK AT YOURSELF!

OH...

YEAH...

POOR GUY... HEART ATTACK, HUH?

NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD BE MY *HEART* THAT FAILED ME...

YEAH, HE WAS A HERO...

HE JUST *WORRIED* TOO MUCH.

HE HAD IT ALL, AND HE DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO BE HAPPY!

I THINK I'D LIKE TO GO *BACK* AND SHOW HIM HOW *EASY* IT CAN BE.

OH, ANGELINA BABY.

OH, MY ANGELINA.

MY BABY BABY BABY BABY...

WHO'S THAT CRYING?

I *SAVED* THE WOMAN... OH, *NO*-- WHERE'S THE LITTLE GIRL?

WHY?! WHY DID YOU SAVE *ME* AND NOT MY ANGELINA?!

I HATE YOU!

I HATE YOU!

I HATE YOU, SPIDER-MAN!

NO! IT CAN'T END LIKE THIS!

NOT THE LITTLE GIRL!

SHE'S ALREADY HALF GONE.

HALF THERE.

HALF HERE.

POOR MAMA.

LET HER GO BACK!

SHE'S TOO YOUNG!

RELEASE HER!

IMPOSSIBLE!

MY MAMA NEEDS ME.

LET HER GO!

THAT...IS NEVER DONE.

RELEASE HER!

NEVER.

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING OF DOING...

...AND YOU'D BE A FOOL--

SO WHAT?!

KR PKOW!

HAHAHA HAHAHA!

SO YOU KEEP PUNCHING, YOU POOR SOUL!

NOTHING IS SOLVED PHYSICALLY IN THIS REALM!

YOUR HEROICS ARE POINT-LESS.

YOU'RE *DEAD*. YOU SHOULD BE ENLIGHTENED TO ALL THIS.

BEYOND DEATH, THERE IS NO *WILL*, NO *DESIRE*...

... IT'S TOO LATE.

YOU CAN'T SAVE ANYONE ANYMORE.

YOU'RE TRYING TO DO THE *IMPOSSIBLE*.

YEAH?

SO WHAT.

SO WHAT?

SK-

KOW!

BLUSH

I WON'T GIVE UP, THANOS!

I CAN'T LET THAT GIRL DIE!

AH! GUILT.

A GRAIN OF GUILT...

THWIP!

YOU REALIZE, SPIDER-MAN--

SLPLZ!

--THAT GREAT HEROES INSPIRE GREAT VILLAINY?

OH, YEAH?

YANK!

KRUSH!

THAT'S WHY WE LET YOU HEROES LIVE SO LONG!

YOU INSPIRE SO MANY CREATIVE VILLAINS--

--THAT YOU END UP CAUSING MORE DESTRUCTION THAN YOU COULD EVER FIX!

YOUR EVERY HEROIC ACT--

--ENDS UP CAUSING MULTIPLE DEATHS!

NO!

ZORCH

OH, BUT YES.

IT'S THE *HERO'S* DOMINO!

A RIPPLE EFFECT OF DESTRUCTION YOU CAN'T EVEN SEE!

BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T IT?

NO! IT'S NOT TRUE!

YOU'RE TRYING TO TRICK ME! DEFEAT ME!

SURE I'M *GUILT-RIDDEN* AND I *WORRY* MYSELF CRAZY...

BUT, UNDERNEATH... IN MY *BONES*... I KNOW I DO GOOD--

--AND THAT YOU'RE A *LIAR*.

YOU WILL ALWAYS *WONDER*, SPIDER-MAN, ABOUT WHAT I SAY.

ABOUT THE FUTILITY OF HEROICS. BUT...

YOUR *MIND*, YOUR *THOUGHTS* ARE NEVERTHELESS SO *SMALL*.

LET ME SHOW YOU HOW INSIGNIFICANT YOU ARE.

OH, YEAH, THANOS? YOU HAVE TO GROW *HUGE* TO MAKE ME FEEL SMALL?

SUCH A PHYSICAL *SHOW*, FOR A REALM WHERE SUCH THINGS AS PUNCHES DON'T MATTER.

SEEMS TO ME, THANOS, THAT YOU'VE JUST *FALTERED* IN THE GAME.

WHAT ARE YOU SQUEAKING ABOUT?

HEY!

EH?

DEATH, MY LOVE.

YOU ARE EVER SO SILENT.

WHY DO YOU *STARE* AT ME SO?

AS IF... AS IF I HAVE *MISSED* SOMETHING...

HAH! SEE, THANOS?

IT'S NOT SO SILLY TO FIGHT DEATH!

I THINK SHE *AGREES* WITH ME!

SHE SEEMS LIKE A REASONABLE WOMAN.

SHUT UP.

DEATH, MY LOVE, DON'T YOU WANT HIM?

I *GIVE* HIM TO YOU!

LIFE CAN NEVER BE STRONGER THAN DEATH!

BUT... AM I *BLIND* BECAUSE I *LOVE* DEATH?

CAN I NEVER PLEASE YOU?

UH, MISS DEATH -- I KNOW I'M OUT OF MY LEAGUE HERE...

AND, UH, IT'S PROBABLY ARROGANT FOR ME TO EVEN *SPEAK*...

BUT, YOU UNDERSTAND THIS ISN'T FOR *ME*, BUT FOR THE *LITTLE GIRL* I FIGHT...

SO, YOU'RE LETTING ME GO?

UH, GREAT, BUT, UH... NO STRINGS, RIGHT?

I DON'T WANT TO *OWE* YOU ANYTHING.

OWE YOU...

UGH!

WHA...?

OH, PRAISE THE LORD HALLELUJAH!

LORD, I OWE YOU MY LIFE!

I THOUGHT YOU WERE A GONER, SPIDER-MAN, AN' MY BABY, TOO!

FOR ABOUT A MINUTE, MY ANGELINA HAD NO BEAT IN HER LITTLE HEART, AN' YOU NEITHER!

THEN YOU *BOTH* COME BACK TOGETHER.

GOSH, WHAT A WACKY FEELING I HAD. LIKE I LEFT MY BODY AND TRAVELLED!

IT HAPPENS, BOY, DON'T YOU QUESTION IT.

JUST TRUST.

WHAT ABOUT ALL THIS BLOOD?

BARBEQUE SAUCE.

MAMA...

SHUSH, GIRL. YOU'RE IN GOD'S HANDS AGAIN.

MEET ME AT CITY HOSPITAL, MA'AM!

THE BARBEQUE SAUCE! AUNT MAY WILL *KILL* ME!

I'M IN TROUBLE NOW! I'M DOOMED. I'M DEAD.

NEXT: *ERIK LARSEN* WRITES, PENCILS, AND INKS PART ONE OF: *"THE REVENGE OF THE SINISTER SIX!"*

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THE INCREDIBLE HULK

VS. THE ABOMINATION!

CAUGHT IN THE HEART OF A GAMMA BOMB EXPLOSION, DR. BRUCE BANNER NOW FINDS HIMSELF TRANSFORMED INTO A POWERFUL, DARK, AND DISTORTED REFLECTION OF HIMSELF.

STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

THE INCREDIBLE HULK

Muh...

Muh...

Muh...

a DAVID * KEOWN * FARMER * ROSEN * OLIVER * CHASE * DEFALCO Production of

GREEN CANARD

MARLO!

I'M UP!

I'M UP!

I'M GONNA GROW *FEATHERS* AGAIN!

BETTY, WHAT'RE YOU...

HOLEEEE...

OH, GEEZ... MY HEAD IS *SPLITTING*...

I'M CHANGING ANY SECOND...

YOU'RE *NOT* "CHANGING." YOU'RE HUNG OVER.

I'M...

WAIT! *I* REMEMBER!

YOU DYED MY *HAIR!*

YOU DID THIS!

I DID?

NAH. I DON'T THINK...

DID I?

I CAN'T FEEL MY *FACE*. IS IT STILL *THERE*?

NOT FOR *LONG*.

LOOK, THE *IMPORTANT* THING IS *NOT* TO PANIC.

WELL, THERE'S *ONE* OPTION *SHOT*, NOW, ISN'T THERE!

OH, *I* SEE WHAT HAPPENED. I MEAN, Y'KNOW, WE WERE PRETTY *BLITZED*...

BLOND HAIR DYE

JANITOR IN A DRUM

...AND THE BOTTLES ARE *KIND* OF SIMILAR...

YOU DYED MY HAIR WITH *CLEANING FLUID!*

AMONG *OTHER* THINGS. HEY, IT WAS AN *HONEST* MISTAKE.

SO WAS THE ALASKAN *OIL SPILL!*

KNOK

KNOK

I'LL GET IT.

LOOK, BETTY, THINGS GO *WRONG* SOMETIMES. THAT'S *LIFE*. IF YOU WANT TO *ESCAPE* FROM LIFE, BECOME A *NUN*.

OOOOH, I *TRIED* THAT. IT DIDN'T *HELP*.

TRUST ME, I'LL GET IT FIXED...

UP?

HEY, MAR.

TOLD'JA HE'D BE BACK.

BRUCE?

UHHH...

FOR ME?

AW, BETTY...

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE.

Y'KNOW SOMETHIN', CHARLIE?

CAN THIS *WAIT*, FRANK?

YEAH. SURE. I'M *ALWAYS* WAITIN'. IT'S NOT LIKE--

ALL *RIGHT* ALREADY. WHAT?

WHENEVER WE GO TO A PARTY, ME AND THE MISSUS, AND I MENTION I'M A SEWER WORKER, YOU KNOW WHAT? THEY'RE *IMPRESSED!*

YEAH, RIGHT.

SWEAR TO GAWD! THEY SAY, "ISN'T THAT DANGEROUS? I MEAN, WITH ALL THE ALLIGATORS AND MONSTERS IN THE NEW YORK SEWERS!"

MONSTERS IN THE SEWERS, CHARLIE! CAN YOU *BEAT* THAT? *THAT* OLD STORY! ISN'T THAT *RIDICULOUS*?

I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT SO.

HEY! WHO'RE YOU?! *YOU* SHOULDN'T BE DOWN HERE!

TELL ME ABOUT IT.

AA

AAAHHHHH

THAT'S YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT *WORK* FOR YOU.

NADIA.

I WISH I KNEW THE THINGS TO SAY...

OR THE THINGS TO *DO*.

BUT I'M PARALYZED. AND I DO NOT KNOW IF I'M FROZEN BY YOUR *BEAUTY*...

OR MY *UGLINESS*.

DEAR LORD, GIVE ME A SIGN. *TELL* ME...

TELL ME WHAT TO *DO*.

SO THAT'S THE STORY. THE PANTHEON ONLY WANT THE *BEST* FOR HUMANITY, AND WANT *ME* TO BE A PART OF IT.

DOESN'T IT SOUND COOL, GUYS?

OH... VERY COOL.

I WANT US TO LIVE THERE, IN THE MOUNT. WE CAN FINALLY BE *TOGETHER.* NO MORE RUNNING. NO MORE HIDING. SOMEPLACE WHERE WE CAN...

WHERE WE'D PRACTICALLY BE *PRISONERS!*

BRUCE, I JUST LEFT AN INSULAR, CLOSED LIFE. I DON'T WANT MORE OF THE SAME.

BETTY, YOU'VE GOT IT ALL *WRONG!*

DIDN'T YOU *HEAR* ME? WE'D BE *TOGETHER!* WE--

WHY ARE YOU *FLINCH...*

...ING.

IT'S NOT THEM, IT'S *ME*, ISN'T IT?

YOU SAID YOU'D GIVE ME TIME. YOU--

TAKE YOUR TIME, A DAY, A MONTH, A YEAR.

WHATEVER.

I'M FINE WITH IT, REALLY. HOWEVER LONG.

I'M REALLY, *REALLY* FINE WITH IT. BECAUSE I LOVE HER.

I CAN *HANDLE* THIS. I'M PERFECTLY OKAY.

NEVA OZF

KRRUNCH

HEY, BRUCE! WAIT UP!

BOY, WONDER WHO PARKED *THAT* WRECK HERE?

HEY, BRUCE, SHE'LL COME AROUND.

SHE'D BETTER.

WHAT?

NOTHING.

LOOK, BRUCE, YOU KNOW I TRUST YOU AND EVERYTHING, BUT MAYBE THIS PANTHEON GIG IS A LITTLE...

WHOA! WHO'S PILOTING *THAT* BABY? LUKE SKYWALKER?

THAT'S MY RIDE. COME ON.

HEY, I'M INTO CAR-POOLING AND ALL, BUT THIS IS A LITTLE *MUCH*.

RICK, THIS IS ULYSSES, ONE OF THE PANTHEON. ULYSSES, THIS IS RICK JONES. ONE OF THE BEST.

RICK JONES. I READ YOUR *BOOK*.

YEAH? WHAT'D YOU THINK?

TURGID AND SELF-AGGRANDIZING.

GEE, *THANKS*. CAN I USE THAT AS A PULL QUOTE?

SO WHO ARE *YOU* SUPPOSED TO BE? BUCK ROGERS OR FLASH GORDON?

CUTE, DOCTOR, WHERE'S YOUR WIFE?

INDISPOSED. ARE WE GOING BACK TO THE MOUNT?

WE'RE GOING WITH A SLIGHT DETOUR.

HOW SLIGHT?

2,000 MILES.

"WE'RE HEADING TO NEW YORK."

NADIA! LOOKING GORGEOUS AS ALWAYS.

SERGI, YOU FLATTERER. MORE. *MORE*.

GET IN BEFORE YOUR HEAD SWELLS SO MUCH YOU DON'T FIT.

SERGI, WHAT'S *WRONG*!? IS HE FOLLOWING AGAIN?!

WHAT? OH...NO. NO, NOT AT ALL.

IT'S NOTHING.

AND I'VE CONTACTED SOME FRIENDS...

...TO MAKE SURE IT *STAYS* NOTHING.

LOOK, BETTY, THERE'S A LOT OF STUFF YOU SHOULD'VE SAID TO BRUCE. STUFF HE WAS ENTITLED TO HEAR.

HE WOULDN'T HAVE WANTED TO *HEAR* IT, MARLO. AND HE WOULDN'T HAVE UNDER-STOOD.

WELL? HOW DO I LOOK?

LIKE A PUNK BARBIE DOLL.

WHAT *WOULDN'T* HE HAVE UNDERSTOOD?

LOOK, IT SOUNDS SELFISH, BUT... I WANT TO FEEL NEEDED. WHEN BRUCE WAS BRUCE, HE *NEEDED* ME. DESPERATELY.

I WANT TO BE SOMEONE THAT HE CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT. YOU SAW HOW EASILY HE BLEW OUT OF HERE AND LEFT ME BEHIND.

HE DOESN'T NEED ME. HE DOESN'T NEED *ANYONE*. BESIDES, *YOU'RE* THE ONE WHO SAID I SHOULD MAKE MY OWN LIFE.

YEAH, BUT I DON'T WANT TO BREAK UP YOUR MARRIAGE.

RENO HERALD

MARLO, I WAS *AFRAID* TO TELL HIM. AFRAID OF WHAT HE MIGHT DO. HE RADIATES DANGER. BEING AFRAID OF YOUR HUSBAND... WHAT KIND OF BASIS FOR A MARRIAGE IS *THAT*?

I WON'T BE AFRAID...

...AND I WON'T BE BAGGAGE. I'M GOING TO FIND A JOB WHERE I COUNT FOR SOMETHING.

WHOA! WHO'S THE BABE ON THE SCREEN?

THE "BABE," MR. JONES, IS *NADIA DORNOVA*. ACTRESS AND RECENT EMIGRE' FROM THE SOVIET UNION, CURRENTLY STARRING ON BROADWAY IN *METAMORPHOSIS*.

THAT'S THE KAFKA THING THAT WAS A FIRST DRAFT FOR "THE FLY," RIGHT?

THAT'S *ONE* WAY TO LOOK AT IT.

ONE OF HER COSTARS IS A FIELD OPERATIVE OF OURS NAMED SERGI. WE HAVE HUNDREDS OF OPERATIVES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD...

THEY'RE OUR EYES AND EARS. THE VAST MAJORITY, OF COURSE, ONLY HAVE THE BAREST INKLING OF JUST HOW *LARGE* OUR ORGANIZATION IS.

SERGI HAS INFORMED US THAT NADIA IS BEING *STALKED* BY SOME MYSTERIOUS INDIVIDUAL. HAS BEEN FOR THE LAST *WEEK* OR SO. BIG BRUISER, AND FAST. WE'D LIKE YOU TO CHECK IT OUT.

WHY *ME* SPECIFICALLY?

WE'VE DONE SOME CHECKING INTO HER BACKGROUND. IT TURNS OUT SHE WAS ONCE MARRIED TO AN EMIL BLONSKY. HERE'S HIS PICTURE.

NAME SEEMS *FAMILIAR* SOMEHOW.

THIS WAS FROM HIS DAYS AS A *SPY.* A "BEFORE" PICTURE. NOW HE LOOKS LIKE THIS.

THE ABOMI-NATION!

YOU'RE RIGHT. HE'S *DEFINITELY* MY PROBLEM...

ESPECIALLY SINCE I DUMPED HIM IN TOXIC WASTE. STILL HE MUST HAVE *RECOVERED* ENOUGH TO ESCAPE FROM WHEREVER THE GOVERNMENT WAS *HOLDING* HIM.

DO YOU REALIZE IF IT WEREN'T FOR BAD GUYS ESCAPING, WE'D ALL BE SITTING AROUND PLAYING *PINOCHLE?*

BANNER, ARE YOU *SURE* YOU WANT THIS BOZO ALONG?

WHO, RICK?

THAT BOZO IS WORTH TEN OF YOU, RED.

HMPH. I'D *RAM* THOSE WORDS DOWN YOUR *THROAT* IF THERE WEREN'T A GOOD CHANCE YOU'D KILL ME.

THE ABOMINATION STORMING AROUND NEW YORK. THAT'S SOMETHING NICE AND *SIMPLE.*

I'VE HAD A BELLYFUL OF SKRULLS, KREE, AND INTELLIGENCE SUPREMES.

"GIMME SOMETHING DOWN AND DIRTY INSTEAD OF COSMIC SILLINESS *ANY* DAY."

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, STRANGE! WE MUST STOP THANOS! HE'S ALL-POWERFUL, AND TOTALLY *MAD!*

CALMLY, MY FRIEND. IF THANOS *HAS* RETURNED, IF HE *MENACES* THE WORLD...

...THEN WE WILL *STOP* HIM. WE HAVE BEFORE.

THE FIRST THING YOU MUST DO, SURFER...

...IS PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER.

MY MENTAL STATE IS BESIDE THE POINT. ONLY *THANOS* MATTERS! AND IF WE DON'T *STOP* HIM...

THEN NOTHING *ELSE* WILL MATTER...

EVER AGAIN!

"I THOUGHT I COULD DO IT."

I THOUGHT I COULD SIMPLY WATCH HER...

"...SAFE, SECURE, FROM A *DISTANCE.*

BUT THERE'S A NEED SWELLING IN ME. A NEED TO *TRY* TO WIN HER BACK.

I'M ALREADY LESS THAN A MAN ON THE OUTSIDE. BUT IF I STAY HERE, COWERING AND CRINGING...

...I'M LESS THAN A MAN ON THE *INSIDE.*

I WON'T HAVE IT.

THIS NIGHT, I *WILL* DO *SOMETHING.*

I DON'T KNOW WHAT.

BUT SOMETHING.

CATS...

"MAN, THIS IS SOMETHING."

METAMORPHOSIS

"LOWER YOUR VOICE PLEASE, MR. JONES."

OH, SORRY. I CAN'T RECALL THE LAST TIME I SAW A BROADWAY SHOW... AND NEVER FROM THE WINGS.

GREGOR, WE *NEED* YOU!

I CONTINUE TO BE IMPRESSED MYSELF.

JUST AS I'M IMPRESSED HOW QUICKLY ULYSSES RESPONDED TO MY REQUEST FOR HELP. WHERE'S YOUR "ASSOCIATE"?

IN THE ALLEY OUTSIDE. ON THE LOOKOUT FOR--

WH-WHAT'S *HAPPENING?*

JACK!

WHOA! NICE VANISHING EFFECT! BUT SHE BLEW HER LINE -- I THOUGHT THE CHARACTER'S NAME IS GREGOR.

IT *IS!* THE *ACTOR'S* NAME IS JACK! AND THAT DISAPPEARANCE *WASN'T* IN THE *SCRIPT!*

WONG!!

SOMETHING *HIDEOUS* IS HAPPENING!!

I CAN *FEEL* IT!

"HIDEOUS," MASTER? WHAT DO Y--

KRAASH

SPIDER-SENSE HAS BEEN TWITCHY ALL DAY. BUT IT HASN'T BEEN ANYTHING THAT I CAN LOCK DOW--

--OWWWWWWAAHHHH!!

CRIPES!

SPIDER-SENSE JUST WENT *CRAZY!* FEEL LIKE *MY HEAD'S* GOING TO CRACK LIKE A MELON!!

I DON'T *GET* IT?

WHY DID THE SHOW *STOP*?!

HONEY? I FEEL A LITTLE STRA--

ALISON!

TERRY! *TERRY!!*

AAAAAA

KRAAK

RICK! WHERE'S THE ABOMINATION!? I HEARD SCREAMS--!

EXIT

I GOTTA CALL MARLO! MAKE SURE SHE'S OKAY!! HALF THE PEOPLE ARE JUST BEING TOTALLY WIPED OUT! IF IT'S WIDESPREAD--

RICK, WHERE *IS* HE!?

IT'S *NOT* THE ABOMINATION! IT'S--

AW, NO! *NO!*

I *CAN'T* DIE NOW! I GOT A GIG ON THURSDAY!

RICK!!

THEY'RE ALL *DYING!* BILLIONS UPON BILLIONS OF SOULS *BLINKING* OUT OF EXISTENCE!

IT'S HAPPENING!

IT WAS RIGHT IN THE BIBLE! *THIS IS THE TIME!*

IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD!

IT'S JUDGMENT DAY!

YOU'RE NEXT!

YOU'RE NEXT!

HELP! *HELP!*

INCREDIBLE.

MASS PANIC. CRIES OF THE END BEING NEAR.

AND YOU DELIVERED TO ME.

HOW CLEAR COULD THE SIGNS *BE?*

!

COME, NADIA.

YOU'RE SAFE NOW.

THIS IS *INSANE!* RICK'S GONE. NADIA'S GONE!

STUPID HUMANS PANICKING ALL AROUND ME.

STAYING HERE ISN'T DOING ME A *BIT* OF GOOD.

I NEED ALTITUDE IF I'M GOING TO...

THERE! AND THERE *HE* IS! I *KNEW* IT! THIS IS SOME SORT OF *DIVERSION* ON HIS PART!

BLONSKY! DROP HER!

DIDN'T HEAR ME OVER THE SCREAMS.

AND IF I JUMP DOWN...

...THE STREETS ARE SO THICK WITH PEOPLE...

...I'LL CRUSH SOME-ONE.

IDIOTS, GETTING IN MY WAY.

I'D NEVER BEEN MUCH OF A BELIEVER IN *FATE*...

BUT THIS WOULD BE ENOUGH TO CONVINCE *ANYONE.*

HE DUCKED THROUGH THAT DOOR...

HOT AS HADES DOWN HERE.

WHEN I'M THROUGH WITH HIM, HE'LL BE ABLE TO COMPARE IT FIRST-HAND.

HOLD IT, BLONSKY.

YOU UN-REPENTANT PIECE OF TOXIC WASTE.

AND I MEAN THAT *SINCERELY.*

YOU!!

EXCUSE ME, MY DEAR.

I HAVE TO GIVE SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS...

...THE BUSINESS.

SO... YOU'RE *GREEN* AGAIN, EH? WHAT HAPPENED? LOSE A FIGHT TO TED TURNER?

SMART MOUTH, BLONSKY...

YOURS IS SMART, SO WHAT ARE YOU? THE INTELLIGENT HULK? THE BANNER HULK? THE DUMB HULK?

I'M ROBERT BRUCE BANNER...

THE INCREDIBLE HULK!!

WHERE'S *RICK!?* AND THE OTHERS? HOW DID YOU PULL IT OFF? *HOW?*

UNNHHH!

AT LEAST WITH THE STUPID HULK, I ALWAYS KNEW WHAT HE WAS *TALKING* ABOUT!!

YOU MADE THEM DIS-APPEAR! *YOU* BRING THEM BACK!

ARRRHHHH!

MAYBE YOU'RE INTELLIGENT AND YOUR HEARING IS JUST BAD.

I DIDN'T MAKE ANYONE DIS-APPEAR! I JUST TOOK BACK WHAT WAS *MINE!*

I'LL *TELL* YOU WHAT'S YOURS.

THIS IS YOURS!

AND THERE'S PLENTY MORE TO KEEP IT COMPANY. YOU THINK YOU'RE UGLY *NOW?* YOU'RE GOING TO BE *NOSTALGIC* FOR YOUR PRESENT LOOKS.

KRUNCK

NOW TELL ME *WHAT YOU DID WITH--?*

WHAT THE *DEVIL--?*

HEEEYYYYYY!!

WELL...

IF *THAT'S* NOT A CONCLUSIVE SIGN...

I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* IS.

NEXT: THANOS HAS HURLED DOWN THE "INFINITY GAUNTLET!!. AND THE HULK ENGAGES IN--

"Small Talk"

***HULK VISIONARIES: PETER DAVID VOL. 7 TPB* COVER** BY DALE KEOWN & CHRIS SOTOMAYOR

MARVEL® COMICS

31 JULY

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

DR. STRANGE®

SORCERER SUPREME™

∞ INFINITY GAUNTLET CROSSOVER

TO STOP THE SILVER SURFER®

HE WAS ONCE A SURGEON—AN ARROGANT MAN-OF-THE-WORLD SEDUCED BY MATERIAL WEALTH. THEN, WHEN A TRAGIC ACCIDENT DEPRIVED HIM OF HIS SURGICAL SKILLS, **STEPHEN STRANGE** DISCOVERED A SEPARATE REALITY, A HIGHER PLANE OF OCCULT FORCES IN ETERNAL CONFLICT. VOWING TO BE EARTH'S FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST MAGICAL MENACE, THE ERSTWHILE PHYSICIAN BECAME EARTH'S FOREMOST MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

DOCTOR STRANGE, SORCERER SUPREME!

A GAUNTLET HURLED!

SURFER--?!

SOME NIGHTS, IT JUST DOESN'T PAY TO KEEP OUT OF BED.

FIRST, THE MOTHER OF ALL VERBAL BATTLES WITH **CLEA**, WHO WOUND UP STOMPING OUT, FURIOUS ABOUT THE **SLEEP-SPELL** I'D PUT ON HER FOR A DAY OR TWO... *

THEN THE **SILVER SURFER** CAME CRASHING THROUGH MY **WINDOW**...

AND NOW, MY SKY-RIDING FRIEND COLLAPSED A **SECOND** TIME--WHEN MY MAN **WONG** SUDDENLY VANISHED BEFORE OUR EYES. **

I'M BEGINNING TO THINK MAYBE BEING "**SENTINEL OF THE SPACEWAYS**" ISN'T EVERYTHING IT'S CRACKED UP TO BE.

* WE'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT THAT, NEXT TIME.
** AS SEEN, 3.7 SECONDS AGO, IN INFINITY GAUNTLET #1. --NEW EDITOR MIKE.

ROY & DANN THOMAS	TONY DEZUNIGA	RICK PARKER	GEORGE ROUSSOS	MIKE ROCKWITZ	TOM DEFALCO
WRITERS	GUEST ARTIST	LETTERER	COLORIST	EDITOR	EDITOR IN CHIEF

MY FIRST IMPULSE IS TO TRY TO REVIVE HIM WITH A SPELL.

BUT-- WHICH SPELL?

IF HE'S REALLY HURT, AS OPPOSED TO MERELY PASSED OUT, THE WRONG INCANTATION COULD DO A LOT MORE HARM THAN GOOD.

I DON'T FEEL ANY PULSE... BUT THEN, I DIDN'T FEEL ANY THE LAST TIME, EITHER.

COME TO THINK OF IT, I'M NOT SURE THE SURFER HAS A PULSE, AS WE UNDERSTAND THE TERM.

THAT'S WHAT COMES OF HAVING GALACTUS ATOMICALLY RESTRUCTURE YOUR BODY FROM THE ORGANIC TO THE-- WHATEVER IT NOW IS.

SEEMS LIKE EVERY TIME I HAVE TO PLAY PHYSICIAN LATELY, IT'S WITH SOMEONE WHOSE PHYSIOLOGY IS DISTINCTLY OTHER THAN HUMAN.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, HERE COMES MY MOST RECENT PATIENT...

NNOOO!

...JAMES DEAN!?

YOU'RE TEARING ME APART!

NO NEED TO ASK WHAT IN OSHTUR'S NAME HE MEANS BY THAT LITTLE OUTBURST.

THE BLUE JEANS, RED JACKET, AND WHITE T-SHIRT TELL THE STORY.

HE'S BEEN WATCHING "REBEL WITHOUT A CAUSE" AGAIN...

...ESPECIALLY THE FIRST REEL.

HE'S A GOOD AND LOYAL ASSISTANT... BUT HE IS A MITE IMPRESSIONABLE.

RINTRAH! DROP THE IMAGE-WEAVE, FOR HOGGOTH'S SAKE!

M-MY APOLOGIES, MASTER. I FORGOT.

NOW TELL ME WHY YOU BURST IN HERE!

WELL, MASTER, AS WONG DOUBTLESS TOLD YOU--

"--IMEI AND I HAD GONE OUT SHOPPING A LITTLE WHILE AGO...

DOESN'T IT FRIGHTEN YOU, RINTRAH--HAVING EVERYONE SEE YOU AS THE ACTOR WE SAW IN THAT OLD FILM?

EVEN THE VOICE! AND YOU MUST HAVE MEMORIZED ALL HIS DIALOGUE!

"THEY CALLED ME CHICKEN. YOU KNOW--CHICKEN? I HAD TO GO, 'CAUSE IF I DIDN'T, I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO FACE THOSE KIDS AGAIN."

I DO TEND TO LAPSE INTO CHARACTER WHEN I HAVE WOVEN AN IMAGE-SPELL, DON'T I?

I AM SOMETHING OF A MIMIC--WHICH AIDS ME ALSO, IN COMMITTING INCANTATIONS TO MEMORY. I--

"WELL-NOW-THERE-THEN!"

YOU SAW IT, TOO, RINTRAH? THOSE PEOPLE UP AHEAD--HALF OF THEM SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED INTO THIN AIR!

I--I HESITATE TO MENTION IT, IMEI--

--BUT YOU ARE VANISHING, AS WELL!

OHHHHHHHH!

"BOY--IF I HAD ONE DAY WHEN I DIDN'T HAVE TO BE ALL CONFUSED AND ASHAMED OF EVERYTHING...!"

"I ADMIT IT, MASTER--SOME WEAVE-SPELL PERSONIFICATIONS ARE FAR HARDER TO SHAKE OFF THAN OTHERS...

...BUT I DID MANAGE TO HURRY BACK HERE TO NOTIFY *YOU*, BEFORE--

MASTER! IS THAT--THE *SILVER SURFER?*

YES. WHEN WONG FADED AWAY--

-- HE SHOUTED SOMETHING ABOUT FEELING THE *DEATHS* OF BILLIONS OF SOULS THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE--

--THEN HE FELL INTO SOME SORT OF *COMA.*

WONG IS GONE, AS WELL?

IT SEEMS *HALF* THE HUMANS ON THIS PLANET HAVE ABRUPTLY *DISAPPEARED!*

WHAT IS *HAPPENING* HERE?

I'M SURE THE SURFER COLLAPSED BECAUSE THE REALIZATION OF SO MANY *LIVES* BEING SNUFFED OUT OF EXISTENCE *OVER-WHELMED* HIM--

--AND HE *WITHDREW INTO HIMSELF!*

WHICH LEAVES *ME* WITH THE UNENVIABLE TASK OF *PURSU-ING* HIM.

BUT-- WHAT OF *ME!* AND *WONG,* TO SAY NOTHING OF THE *VANISHED MULTITUDES?*

SURELY *THEY* DESERVE YOUR PRIOR ATTENTION...

I WISH I *COULD* SEARCH FOR THEM-- BUT IT'S THE *SURFER* WHO'S THE CRUCIAL ELEMENT NOW.

HE MAY WELL BE THE *KEY* TO THIS MACABRE PUZZLE--

--AND THAT'S WHY I'M *GOING IN* AFTER HIM!

"GOING IN"? BUT, MASTER--IF YOU *FAIL*-- YOU MAY WELL FIND YOUR-SELF *TRAPPED* FOR ALL ETERNITY WITHIN HIS COMATOSE MIND!

BY THE BLINDING WHITE OF HOGGOTH'S HOARY SWARM--

BY THE AWESOME EYE WHICH GLEAMS ON AGAMOTTO'S BROW--

BY THE MOONLIGHT THRUST BY MUNNOPOR LIKE A SWORD--

--LET ME ENTER THE MIND OF THIS BEING--

--NOW!

THAT, RINTRÁH, IS A RISK I'LL HAVE TO TAKE!

M-MASTER...?!

NOW HE IS GONE, ALSO...

...AND ONLY THE GRIMLY SILENT SURFER REMAINS!

GODS' SPEED, MASTER--AND THE GODS' HELP, AS WELL!

THE MIND OF THE ALIEN NOW KNOWN ONLY AS THE SILVER SURFER:

NOT SURPRISINGLY, IT TAKES THE FORM OF-- OUTER SPACE.

LUCKILY, I HAVE SORCERY TO SERVE AS A STAND-IN FOR SCIENCE.

OTHERWISE, WITH NO COMPUTER TO CHART MY COURSE AMONG THESE PSYCHIC STARS, I COULD SPEND A LIFETIME LOOKING FOR HIS HOME PLANET.

AS IT TURNS OUT, THOUGH, I NEED NEITHER SORCERY NOR SCIENCE.

NO TRIO OF WISE MEN EVER HAD TO FOLLOW A STAR THAT BURNED ANY BRIGHTER THAN ZENN-LA, ABRUPTLY BLAZING UP IN MY PATH.

BUT, AS IT HAPPENS--

-- THAT'S NOT THE ONLY THING I SUDDENLY FIND IN MY PATH.

TURN BACK, STEPHEN STRANGE!

I ONLY WANT TO HELP YOU...

YOU HAVE NO PLACE ON THE WORLD THAT SPAWNED ME!

I WANT NO HELP.

I AM BEYOND HELP.

NEITHER OF US CAN STOP THANOS--OR CANCEL THE DEATHS OF UNTOLD MULTITUDES HE HAS ERASED FROM THE UNIVERSE, AS CASUALLY AS YOU OR I MIGHT BRUSH AN INSECT FROM OUR BROW.

WE'VE GOT TO TRY SURFER! TOGETHER PERHAPS WE--

NO! I TRULY SHOULD HAVE DIED, YEARS AGO, ON THE DAY GALACTUS ATTACKED ZENN-LA--INSTEAD OF BECOMING HIS SLAVE.

NOW, AT LEAST, TO ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES-- I AM DEAD. AND I CHOOSE TO REMAIN SO!

UNNNHH--!

I--WON'T ACCEPT THAT!

YOU DID, THAT DAY, WHAT YOU HAD TO DO!

YOU CAN'T JUST GIVE UP AND LET THANOS-- ARRRHH!

I HAVE GIVEN MYSELF OVER TO BLISSFUL SURRENDER, WIZARD-- --AND NEITHER YOU NOR ANYONE ELSE CAN ALTER MY DECISION!

DON'T BE-- TOO SURE ABOUT THAT-- SURFER!

I TRY CASTING A "KITCHEN SINK" SPELL.

ALL MY REGULAR ENTITIES IN IT--

--ALL BUT SATANNISH, WHO WOULDN'T HELP ME CHANGE A PRINCE INTO A TOAD, SINCE I SNAFUED HIS SNEAK ATTACK ON MEPHISTO'S BACKYARD.

WELL, WHO NEEDS HIM?

NOT DR. STRANGE!

THOUGH I WILL CONFESS, HE VANISHES EVEN MORE QUICKLY--

--THAN I'D HAVE EXPECTED--

--LEAVING NOTHING BETWEEN ZENN-LA AND MYSELF BUT A FEW MILLION MILES OF AIRLESS PSYCHIC SPACE.

AND THAT--

--CAN BE TRAV-ERSED--

--IN AN INSTANT--

--FOR I KNOW JUST **WHERE** AND **WHEN** I WANT TO GO, HERE DEEP IN THE MIND OF--

NORRIN RADD?

YOUR HEART IS STILL **TROUBLED.**

IT IS... NOTHING, SHALLA.

MERELY A **MOOD** THAT SOON SHALL PASS.

I AM NOT DECEIVED, MY LOVE.

TOO LONG HAVE I SENSED THE **HUNGER** GNAWING AT YOUR BREAST... A HUNGER FOR THAT WHICH I CAN NEVER GIVE YOU.

I HAVE FOUND HIM.

THEM.

SHALLA-BAL IS LOVELY-- AS BEAUTIFUL, ALMOST, AS **CLEA**-- BUT I MUST NOT THINK ABOUT **HER** RIGHT NOW.

FOR, THE PRIZE YOU CRAVE CAN BE **NOWHERE** FOUND--UNLESS YOU JOURNEY BEYOND THE FARTHEST **STAR.**

BUT **WHAT** CAN IT BE THAT YOU SEEK?

THERE IS **NO TREASURE** IN ALL THE UNIVERSE--

--WHICH CANNOT BE FOUND **HERE**, IN AGE-LESS ZENN-LA.

LOOK **ABOUT** YOU, NORRIN RADD!

SEE THE **WONDERS** OF THIS WORLD OF WORLDS -- SEE THE **GLORIES** WHICH ARE OURS-- MERELY FOR THE **TAKING!**

NO, SHALLA--**NO!** THAT WHICH IS MINE FOR THE TAKING IS NOT **WORTH** THE TAKING.

PARADISE UNEARNED IS BUT A LAND OF **SHADOWS!**

I'VE KNOWN THE SILVER SURFER -- NÉE NORRIN RADD--FOR A LONG TIME, SINCE OUR DAYS IN **THE DEFENDERS.**

SO I ALREADY KNOW **BITS AND PIECES** OF WHAT I'M SEEING NOW.

BUT TO **HEAR** ABOUT SOMETHING--AND TO **EXPERIENCE** IT IN THE COMPANY OF THE MAN HIMSELF-- **ARE** TWO **ENTIRELY** DIFFERENT THINGS.

I SENSE HIS **REVULSION** AT THE SIGHT OF HIS FELLOW BEINGS, SPENDING THEIR DAYS IN THE PURSUIT OF ENDLESS, VAPID **PLEASURES**...

I FEEL HIS **DISDAIN** FOR A LIFETIME'S LEARNING THAT CAN BE ABSORBED IN A FEW PAINLESS MINUTES, BY MEANS OF HYPNO-POWERED **STUDY-CUBES**...

I SHARE HIS **SCORN** FOR A SOCIETY IN WHICH **ANY-THING DESIRED** CAN BE CREATED OUT OF SHEER ATOMS, WITH A READILY-AVAILABLE **CYBERNO-MATERIALIZER**...

...AND I CAN **CERTAINLY** APPRECIATE HIS CONTEMPT FOR A **PARLIAMENT** WHICH DAWDLES AND DEBATES...

...WHILE THE ACTUAL GOVERNING IS DONE BY EMOTIONLESS **COMPUTERS**.

BUT ALL THAT IS ABOUT TO **CHANGE**, AS--

FREE MEN OF ZENN-LA-- ATTEND MY WORDS!

A GIGANTIC **ALIEN SPACE-CRAFT** HAS ENTERED OUR GALAXY, PIERCING ALL NUCLEAR DEFENSES AS THOUGH THEY ARE NON-EXISTENT.

ALL CITIZENS MUST BE PREPARED-- FOR A POSSIBLE *INVASION!*

NO! IT CANNOT BE!

THIS IS A CIVILIZATION WHICH ACHIEVED **PEACE** WITH ITSELF SO LONG AGO THAT IT NO LONGER EVEN HAS A SPACE FLEET.

THE HUGE, HURTLING **GLOBE** THAT APPEARS IN THEIR SKIES A MOMENT LATER CAUSES A WORLDWIDE **PANIC**.

ZENN-LA HAS ONLY ONE THING TO HURL AGAINST IT--ITS **WEAPON SUPREME**, LONG HELD IN RESERVE.

IT MAKES THE H-BOMB LOOK LIKE A FIRECRACKER-- BUT THE GLOBE MERELY HOPS INTO **ANOTHER DIMENSION**, THEN RETURNS WHEN THE BLAST HAS DISSIPATED.

THE PLANET LIES HELPLESS.

EVIDENTLY AN OBJECT LESSON ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU PUT ALL YOUR EGGS IN ONE BASKET.

NOW, WHERE'S--?

AH! THERE'S NORRIN RADD.

HE'S SHAKEN FREE OF SHALLA-BAL, AND COMMANDEERED ZENN-LA'S ONE AND ONLY SPACECRAFT--

--FOR A LAST-DITCH TRY AT SAVING HIS WORLD.

THE GLOBE, OF COURSE, BELONGS TO NONE OTHER THAN--

--GALACTUS.

HE'S COME TO ZENN-LA FOR THE SAME REASON HE COMES TO ANY PLANET--

--TO DRAIN ITS ENERGY TO INSURE HIS OWN SURVIVAL, LEAVING IT A BARREN HUSK.

BUT HE LETS SLIP TO NORRIN RADD THAT HE COULD USE A HERALD TO SCOUT THE UNIVERSE FOR HIM, FINDING HIM NEW WORLDS TO DEVOUR, SO--

HERALD-- PREPARE YOURSELF!

PREPARE--

--TO BE--

LET ME PROBE THE HEAVENS-- SCAN THE STARWAYS-- ROAM THE ENDLESS COSMOS FOR YOU, FOREVER!

SO SHALL IT BE!

YOU-- WHO HAVE BEEN NORRIN RADD-- SHALL BE SO NEVERMORE!

ALL THIS WILL I DO-- IF YOU WILL BUT SPARE MY PEOPLE-- SPARE ZENN-LA!

--REBORN!

THAT WAS MY TRAGIC ERROR, MAGE-- BECOMING GALACTUS'S HERALD!

SURFER?

ONLY HIS ASTRAL SELF, OF COURSE-- BUT EVERY BIT AS REAL IN HERE AS I AM.

THE SILVER SURFER'S LIFE HAS BEEN A MOCKERY-- A WASTE!

I CAN SEE THAT HE'S DESPAIRING-- WITHDRAWING EVER DEEPER INTO HIMSELF--

IF YOU HADN'T, HE'D HAVE TURNED ZENN-LA INTO A RUIN!

SOMETHING HE EVENTUALLY DID, ANYWAY-- SO I ACCOMPLISHED NOTHING BY MY "NOBLE SACRIFICE."

-- AND IF THAT HAPPENS, THANOS MAY HAVE ALREADY WON!

MUST GIVE HIM A REASON TO RETURN TO THE REAL UNIVERSE OUTSIDE, SO--

I'M TAKING A RISK HERE, I KNOW.

HOW DO I KNOW JUST WHAT AGAMOTTO'S EYE MAY HAVE SEEN--

--OR WHAT IT WILL CHOOSE TO SHOW, AT THIS JUNCTURE?

BUT THE DIE, AS THEY SAY--IS CAST.

LET THE SURFER NOW BEHOLD WHAT AGAMOTTO'S EYE HAS SEEN--

LET HIM WITNESS-- LET HIM LIVE--THE WORLD THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN!

STOP! THE PAIN--OF THE TRANSFORMATION-- IS TOO GREAT TO BEAR!

NO MATTER WHAT-- I--I--CANNOT BECOME YOUR HERALD!

I CANNOT!

ALL THAT RESPONSIBILITY OFF MY SHOULDERS...

NOW I TRULY FEEL LIKE ONE REBORN!

THEN YOU ARE OF NO FURTHER INTEREST TO ME, MORTAL!

NEXT MOMENT, NORRIN RADD IS DISSOLVED IN SCATTERED ATOMS.

AND HOW DO YOU THINK YOUR *PEOPLE* FEEL, SURFER--

-- WHEN GALACTUS TURNS HIS ATTENTION TO ZENN-LA? LOOK!

"SINCE YOU DIDN'T BUY HIM OFF, HE'S ALREADY SET UP SHOP ATOP ITS TALLEST BUILDING.

"AS THE *SURFER*, YOU WERE ABLE TO STEER HIM AWAY FROM MANY WORLDS WHICH TEEMED WITH *LIFE*-- TO THOSE MERELY LADEN WITH *ENERGY*.

"NOW, THERE'S NO SILVER SURFER...

"THERE ARE ONLY A FEW FRAIL CRAFT TO ASSAULT GALACTUS'S *ELEMENTAL CONVERTER*-- IN VAIN.

"HE DOESN'T EVEN BOTHER TAKING *REVENGE*, HE'S *ABOVE* THAT KIND OF THING.

"HE SIMPLY TRANSFORMS FIRST THE *OCEANS*, THEN MUCH OF THE *LAND* ITSELF, INTO THE ENERGY ON WHICH HE FEEDS...

"...AND NO ONE CAN *STOP* HIM.

"CERTAINLY NOT THE WOMAN NAMED *SHALLA-BAL*.

HE'S DEAD!

NORRIN RADD *MUST* BE DEAD!

ELSE, HE WOULD SURELY HAVE *RETURNED* BY NOW.

YOU ARE A *CRUEL* BENEFACTOR, STRANGE-- TO MAKE ME OBSERVE THE *SUFFERING* OF THE WOMAN I LOVE!

GO BACK TO THE OUTER WORLD-- AND LEAVE ME IN *PEACE*!

NOT ON YOUR LIFE, SURFER--AND I *DO* MEAN, ON YOUR *LIFE*!

YOU *MADE* YOUR DECISION--

HOGGOTH FORGIVE ME, I HELPED YOU *ACHIEVE* IT--

"-- AND NOW YOU'RE GOING TO SEE THE IRREVERSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF THAT CHOICE!"

THE GLOBE LOOMS-- THE GLOBE WHICH SWALLOWED UP NORRIN RADD!

DO NOT FIGHT THE INVADER! WELCOME HIM!

PERHAPS HE WILL PROVE MERCIFUL!

WE'RE LOST!

NOTHING CAN SAVE US NOW!

IT CANNOT END THIS WAY!

IN ALL THE WORLD-- IS THERE NONE TO HELP US?

THERE ISN'T. WORSE-- THE POOR, DOOMED FOOLS WILL NEVER REALIZE-- THERE COULD HAVE BEEN.

AND LOOK THERE!

SHALLA-BAL-- RUSHING TOWARD THE LEVIATHAN!

SHE'LL BE KILLED! I MUST--

MONSTER! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO NORRIN RADD?

I--I FORGOT-- I NO LONGER EXIST--

I NEVER EXISTED!

I'M AS INSUBSTANTIAL-- AS A GHOST!

I CAN'T TOUCH GALACTUS--OR SHALLA-BAL--OR ANYTHING ELSE!

SHALLA-BAL! LOOK OUT! NNNOOOOO

"I DOUBT IF GALACTUS EVER DIFFERENTIATED SHALLA-BAL FROM ANY OF THE UNTOLD MULTITUDES WHO WERE STRUCK AND DISINTEGRATED BY HIS SWEEPING, MERCILESS CONVERSION RAYS.

"MERCIFULLY, I SUSPECT SHE NEVER EVEN FELT THEM HIT HER.

"I NEED TO *THINK* SHE DIDN'T, ANYWAY.

"BEFORE LONG, NO ONE ON ZENN-LA HAS ANY PLACE TO RUN, AS THE GLOBE-ENCIRCLING BEAM REDUCES THE ENTIRE SPHERE TO A LIFELESS HUSK.

"THEN, WHEN EVEN THE PLANET'S *FIERY CORE* IS DRAINED, GALACTUS DEPARTS...

"... LEAVING BEHIND HIM ONE MORE *DEAD WORLD*, AND THE UNIVERSE POORER FOR IT.

"AS FOR WHAT *GALACTUS* MAY FEEL--

"--WE CAN ONLY CONJECTURE.

" NORRIN RADD'S SORROW, HOWEVER, IS REAL AND PALPABLE... "

NO...

I'M... SORRY I HAD TO SHOW YOU THIS, SURFER.

BELIEVE ME, IF THERE'D BEEN ANY OTHER WAY...

BUT THERE WASN'T, WAS THERE?

IF THERE WAS, I SURE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT IT.

THE MEMORY OF WHAT YOU SAW-- WHAT YOU *LIVED*-- WILL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU, I'M AFRAID.

THERE'S NOTHING EVEN I CAN DO ABOUT THAT.

BUT REMEMBER--IN THAT *OTHER* WORLD FROM WHICH YOU'VE FLED INTO YOURSELF, YOU *DID* SAVE ZENN-LA... AND THE WOMAN YOU LOVED.

WITHOUT YOU TO GUIDE HIM, GALACTUS MIGHT WELL HAVE LAID WASTE TO *OTHER* LIFE-RICH WORLDS, IN THE DAYS TO COME.

PERHAPS...

"PERHAPS," NOTHING!

WHEN, IN YOUR FINAL MISSION FOR HIM, YOU FAILED TO PREVENT HIS REACHING EARTH, YOU TURNED AGAINST HIM AT LAST...

...THUS BUYING PRECIOUS TIME WHICH THE WATCHER AND THE FANTASTIC FOUR USED TO COME UP WITH A SCHEME TO DRIVE HIM OFF. *

I DON'T ENJOY DOING THIS, SURFER-- BUT LOOK AT WHAT HAPPENED IN VIRTUALLY EVERY ALTERNATE TIME-LINE IN WHICH YOU CHOSE NOT TO BE-COME THE HERALD OF GALACTUS.

HE DECIMATES THE EARTH, AS HE'D ALREADY DONE TO SO MANY OTHER WORLDS YOU MIGHT HAVE DENIED HIM -- WHEN, IN OUR REALITY, HE WAS SUBTLY CHANGED BY YOUR REBELLION, AND BY THE NOBILITY WHICH THAT GAVE REED RYCHARDS AND COMPANY A CHANCE TO DISPLAY.

NOT HAVING CREATED A FIRST HERALD IN YOU, HE WON'T GO ON TO CREATE OTHERS.

HE'LL SIMPLY BLUNDER RAVENOUSLY ON THROUGH THE COSMOS, INDISCRIMI-NATELY DEVOURING LIFE FORMS BY THE UNTOLD BILLIONS.

IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT, NORRIN RADD?

IS THAT TO BE YOUR ULTIMATE LEGACY TO THE MEMORY OF ZENN-LA AND SHALLA-BAL?

NO!

YOU'RE RIGHT, MAGICIAN.

YOU'VE SHOWN ME THAT WE MAKE WIDER RIPPLES IN THE CELESTIAL OCEAN THAN WE KNOW.

I SEE NOW I'VE ALLOWED MYSELF THE LUXURY OF SUPPOSING I HADN'T MADE A DIFFERENCE-- THAT THERE WAS A COSMIC INEVITABILITY ABOUT GALAC-TUS'S ACTIONS. MOST MORTALS ARE NEVER PRIVILEGED TO SEE THAT THEIR ACTS CAN -- DO -- HAVE CONSEQUENCES FAR BEYOND THOSE THEY CAN EASILY ENVISION.

* IN THE IMMORTAL FANTASTIC FOUR #48-50.--MIKE.

GLAD TO HEAR IT. BUT I DIDN'T REALLY *SHOW* YOU ALL THAT.

I MERELY-- *REMINDED* YOU.

I WANT TO *BELIEVE* YOU ARE RIGHT.

ALL RIGHT, MAGICIAN.

I'M... READY TO GO *BACK* NOW.

BESIDES, YOU DIDN'T *REALLY* WANT TO CURL UP AND DIE.

UNCONSCIOUSLY, YOU MUST HAVE *WANTED* A REASON TO GO ON LIVING-- OR YOU'D HAVE GIVEN ME MORE OF A *FIGHT* EARLIER.

GOOD. **SNAP!**

AN INSTANT LATER...

...WE'RE BACK IN MY MANSION ON BLEECKER STREET, AND THE SURFER'S EYES OPEN.

HE DOESN'T NEED TO SAY THAT HE'S BANISHED THE DESPAIR THAT HAD ALL BUT OVERWHELMED HIM.

I CAN READ IT, EVEN IN THAT GLEAMING METALLIC FACE...

I CAN HEAR IT, IN THE FIRST WORDS HE UTTERS...

THERE IS MUCH TO BE DONE...!

TO BE CONTINUED IN *INFINITY GAUNTLET* #2. THEN, NEXT ISSUE-- "*RUNNING THE SILVER DAGGER GAUNTLET!*"

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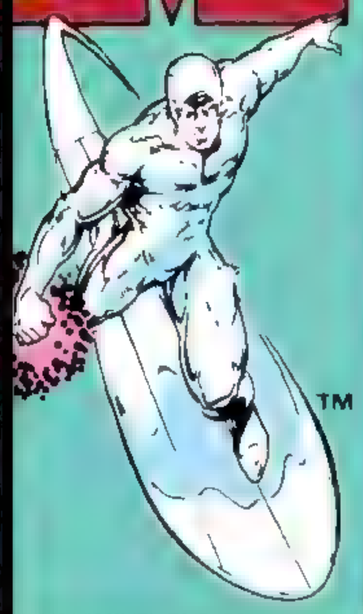

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THE SILVER SURFER®

∞ AN INFINITY GAUNTLET CROSSOVER

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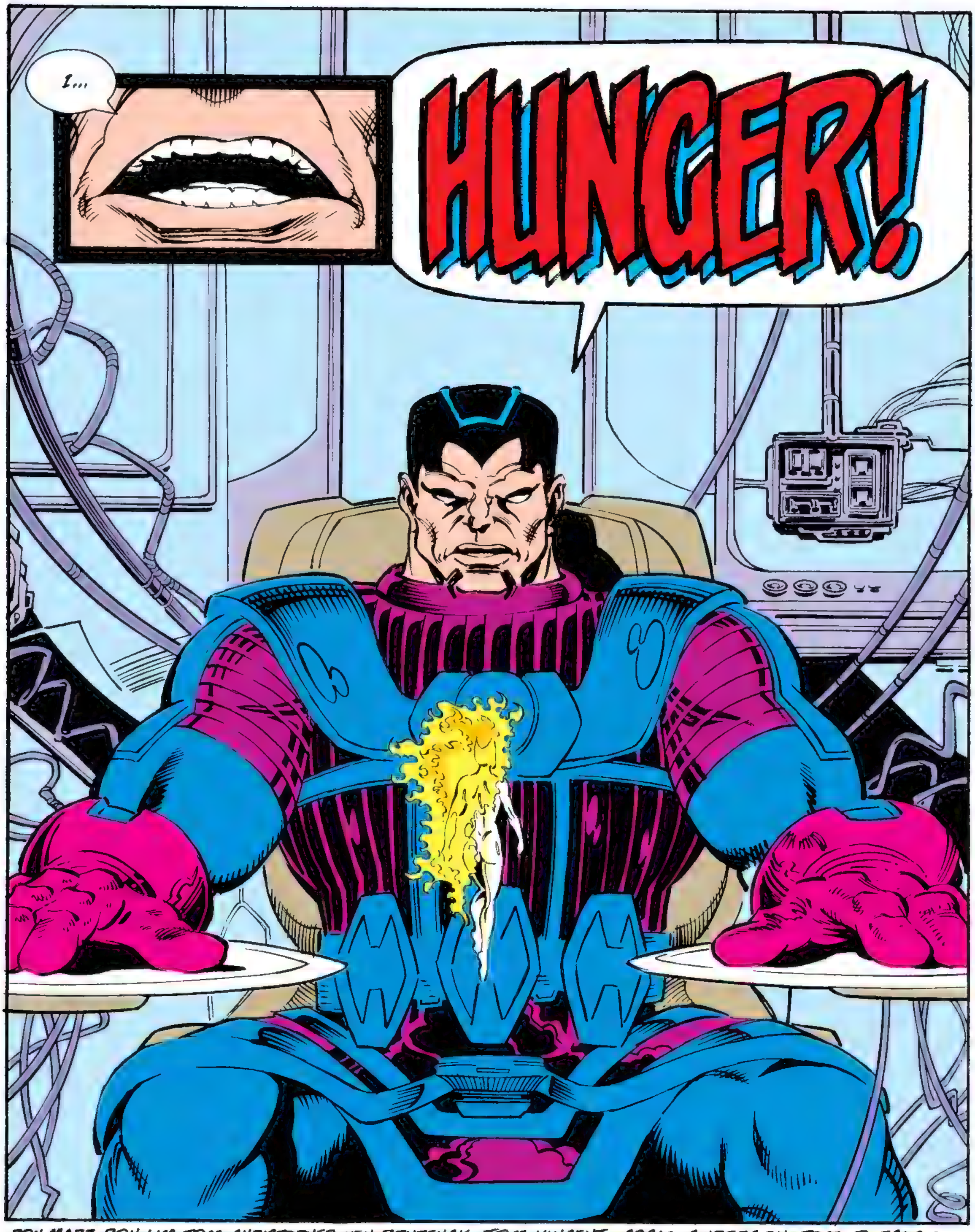
50 YEARS OF CAPTAIN AMERICA 1941 – 1991

RUDE AWAKENING

*TO SAVE HIS PLANET, **NORRIN RADD** SURRENDERED HIS FREEDOM TO BECOME HERALD TO THE WORLD-DEVOURING **GALACTUS**. COATED WITH GALACTIC GLAZE, GIVEN A SURFBOARD OBEYING HIS MENTAL COMMANDS, AND GRANTED THE POWER COSMIC, HE NOW SOARS THE UNIVERSE A SHINING SENTINEL OF THE SPACEWAYS! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . . **THE SILVER SURFER!***



RON MARZ · RON LIM · TOM CHRISTOPHER · KEN BRUZENAK · TOM VINCENT · CRAIG ANDERSON · TOM DeFALCO
WRITER PENCILER INKER LETTERER COLORIST EDITOR CHIEF

THANOS *INTERCEDED* WHEN I NEEDED TO *REPLENISH* MY ENERGIES.*

THE TITAN *SPIRITED AWAY* THE ONLY SUITABLE PLANET WITHIN *NEARBY* SPACE.

YOU MUST SEARCH OUT *ANOTHER WORLD* WHICH MEETS MY ENERGY REQUIREMENTS.

I MUST HAVE *SUSTENANCE* FOR WHAT IS TO COME.

YOUR DUTY LIES BEFORE YOU, NOVA. ACCOMPLISH IT *QUICKLY.*

EVEN *GALACTUS* KNOWS NOT HOW MUCH TIME THE UNIVERSE *HAS LEFT.*

*SILVER SURFER #48.--CRAIG

HAS LEFT?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN *HAS LEFT*? WHAT'S THANOS UP TO?

THE UNIMAGINABLE.

SO HE HAS TO BE STOPPED. I GUESS THERE'S GOING TO BE A *BATTLE*?

ALMOST *CERTAINLY.*

I HOPE IT'S NOT GOING TO BE LIKE THAT TIME YOU WENT UP AGAINST THE *IN-BETWEENER**. THAT WAS *ENOUGH TROUBLE* TO LAST ME A LONG TIME.

MY CONFLICT WITH THE IN-BETWEENER WAS...*UNSEEMLY.*

DO NOT *SPEAK* OF IT AGAIN.

**SILVER SURFER #18 - CRAIG*

WHAT LIES AHEAD IS OF *FAR MORE* CONSEQUENCE.

MY STRENGTH MUST BE *OPTIMUM* SHOULD I NEED TO *CONFRONT* THANOS.

THUS I NEED YOU TO LOCATE *ANOTHER* PLANET SUITING MY *ENERGY* NEEDS.

MAKE HASTE, HERALD. *DELAY* WILL COST THE UNIVERSE *DEARLY.*

CONSIDER ME *GONE*, MASTER.

NEVER SEEN THE BOSS LIKE *THIS.* IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D SAY HE WAS *SCARED.*

BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. WHAT IN GOD'S NAME COULD SCARE GALACTUS?

I MEAN, HOW TOUGH COULD THIS THANOS CHARACTER BE? THE SURFER TANGLED WITH HIM AND LIVED TO TELL ABOUT IT.

SO WHAT'S GALACTUS GOT TO WORRY ABOUT?

STILL, HE SEEMS PRETTY CONCERNED. WISH I KNEW MORE OF WHAT WAS GOING ON.

BUT GALACTUS NEVER TELLS ME ANYTHING. I'M JUST THE HERALD.

MAYBE THE SURFER COULD CLUE ME IN. ASSUMING HE'S STILL TALKING TO ME.

THE IDEA THAT THERE COULD HAVE BEEN ANYTHING BETWEEN US...

HE WAS ONLY USING ME TO GET OVER MANTIS' DEATH ANYWAY. IT'S OBVIOUS.*

AT LEAST TO ME IT WAS. SO THERE'S NO REASON TO FEEL GUILTY ABOUT IT.

RIGHT?

*SS #18. -- CRAIG

IT'S ONLY NATURAL I WAS ATTRACTED TO FIRELORD.

I DIDN'T KNOW THE SURFER WOULD TAKE OFFENSE.

WELL... NOT THAT MUCH.*

*SS #19. -- CRAIG

OF COURSE, FIRELORD COULDN'T BE BOTHERED TO EVEN SAY GOODBYE.

I RESPECT THE SURFER-- HIM BEING GALACTUS'S FIRST HERALD AND ALL.

HE CAN JUST BE SO... HOLIER THAN THOU. LIKE HE'S SOME SORT OF SAINT OR SOMETHING.

MAN, THAT REALLY BURNS ME.

MY FIRST LOYALTY HAS TO BE TO GALACTUS. HE MADE ME WHAT I AM. I'VE SWORN TO SERVE HIM.

BUT THE SURFER WANTED ME TO HAVE SOME MORAL PURPOSE IN MY DUTIES AS HERALD.*

*S.S. #19.

WHAT DOES GALACTUS CARE FOR MORALS? HE'S A GOD, OR VERY CLOSE TO IT.

THE CONCEPT DOESN'T APPLY TO HIM.

HOW CAN THE SURFER EXPECT ME TO PLACE ANYTHING BEFORE THE NEEDS OF A UNIVERSAL FORCE?

IF ONLY HE HADN'T SHOWN ME THE THINGS HE DID IN OUR LAST MEETING.

IT MAKES THINGS SO CONFUSING.

NOVA.

I WOULD HAVE *WORDS* WITH YOU.

THIS MEETING TOOK PLACE BETWEEN SS #43 AND 44. --CRAIG

SURFER. Um, WHAT, UH... BRINGS *YOU* HERE?

ME?

YOU.

YEAH, WELL, MAYBE WE *DO* HAVE SOME THINGS TO WORK OUT. WHATEVER HAPPENED-

I RETURN FROM A *MAD-WORLD* KNOWN AS DYNAMIC CITY, AND AM BOUND FOR TITAN ON *PRESSING MATTERS.*

I HAVE NEITHER THE *TIME* NOR *DESIRE* TO DISCUSS *ANYTHING* OTHER THAN YOUR DUTIES AS HERALD.

OUR LAST CONVERSATION WAS *RUDELY INTERRUPTED.* I WOULD *FINISH* IT.

IF *THAT'S* WHAT THIS IS ABOUT, I DON'T HAVE *ANYTHING ELSE* TO SAY.

I DON'T NEED *YOU* TO TELL *ME* HOW TO DO MY JOB. LET'S NOT FORGET *YOU* WERE THE ONE THAT GOT *FIRED.*

MY CONSCIENCE *DEMANDED* THAT I ACT AS I DID.

YOU ACT AS IF YOU *HAVE* NO CONSCIENCE.

MY CONSCIENCE IS CLEAR. I DO WHAT I *HAVE* TO DO IN SERVICE OF GALACTUS.

AND THAT INCLUDES *GENOCIDE?* DESTROYING A *WORLD* OF CREATURES SUCH AS THESE?

YOU DO NOT *DENY* THAT YOUR PURPOSE HERE IS TO ASCERTAIN IF THIS PLANET *AGREES* WITH GALACTUS'S *APPETITES?*

SO?!

LOOK AT THEM! THEY'RE *PRIMITIVES!*

THEY WON'T *AMOUNT* TO ANYTHING FOR *MILLIONS* OF YEARS, IF EVER.

THIS WORLD SUITS GALACTUS'S NEEDS. ANYTHING ELSE IS *IRRELEVANT.*

HOW *BLIND* YOU ARE.

HOW PITIFULLY *BLIND.*

IF I LEARNED *ONE THING* WHILE SOARING THE SPACEWAYS, IT IS THAT *ALL LIFE* IS PRECIOUS.

LOOK, I DON'T *NEED* THIS. YOU'VE GOT *NO RIGHT.*

I'M *JUST* DOING MY JOB.

I HAD *HOPED* YOU WOULD LISTEN TO *REASON*, BUT IT APPEARS YOU MUST BE SHOWN.

SHOWN *WHAT?*

WHAT ARE YOU *TALKING* ABOUT?

I'M GOING TO *TAKE YOU* SOMEWHERE, BUT I'LL NEED YOUR *HELP* TO REACH IT.

WHY SHOULD I *GO ANYWHERE* WITH YOU?

BECAUSE YOUR *CURIOSITY* WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO DO *OTHERWISE.*

I *DO* KNOW YOU *THAT WELL*, AT LEAST.

I GUESS YOU'VE GOT *MY INTEREST* THEN.

HE NEEDS *MY HELP* TO GET SOMEWHERE--I DIDN'T THINK HE NEEDED *ANYONE'S* HELP TO GET ANYWHERE!

I HAVE NOT *ATTEMPTED* THIS IN *QUITE* SOME TIME.

TO *COMPLETE* THE TRIP, WE'LL NEED ALL THE SPEED *YOU* CAN MUSTER AS WELL.

WHERE *IS* THIS PLACE THAT WE NEED *ALL* THIS POWER?

FAR AWAY.

I'VE NEVER GONE *THIS FAST* BEFORE!

FEW HAVE.

FEW CAN EVEN *DREAM* OF IT.

THERE IS OUR DESTINATION.

BRACE YOURSELF FOR *PLANETFALL.* IT COULD BE...

JARRING!

MY NAVIGATION WAS BETTER THAN I COULD HAVE HOPED.

OUR VOYAGE ENDS IN THAT CLEARING.

...ooooh...

...THIS BETTER BE WORTH THAT RIDE.

ANOTHER PLANET OF PRIMITIVES?

I DON'T BELIEVE I SURVIVED THAT TRIP SO YOU COULD SHOW ME MORE SAVAGES.

SO THEY'RE APES INSTEAD OF BIRDS. BIG DEAL.

DON'T JUDGE THEM TOO HASTILY.

I WON'T BE JUDGING THEM AT ALL FROM THE LOOKS OF IT.

THEIR TERROR IS UNDERSTANDABLE. A CULTURE SUCH AS THIS HAS NO EXPLANATION FOR OUR APPEARANCE, OTHER THAN THE SUPERNATURAL.

SO WHY BRING ME HERE? WHAT MAKES THIS PLANET SO SPECIAL?

LOOK AROUND YOU.

THIS WORLD BEARS SOME RESEMBLANCE TO THE ONE YOU WOULD SACRIFICE FOR GALACTUS' HUNGER.

WHAT'S YOUR *POINT*? OR DON'T YOU *HAVE* ONE?

ONLY *THIS*: ASK YOURSELF IF YOU WOULD DESTROY *THIS* WORLD TO APPEASE YOUR MASTER?

WOULD YOU SEE ALL THIS *BEAUTY* TURNED TO *RUBBLE*, TO SO MUCH *LIFELESS ROCK* FLOATING IN SPACE?

WOULD YOU SEE *THESE BEINGS* SNUFFED FROM EXISTENCE BEFORE THEIR RACE HAD A CHANCE TO *MATURE*?

ALL IF GALACTUS *WILLED* IT?

SURE,

IF GALACTUS NEEDED TO *FEED* ON THE ENERGIES HERE, I WOULDN'T *HESITATE* TO LEAD HIM TO THIS PLANET.

THERE MUST BE *THOUSANDS* OF OTHERS, JUST LIKE IT. NOBODY WOULD *MISS IT*.

EXCEPT THOSE WHO CALL THIS GLOBE *HOME*.

THERE IS *SOMETHING ELSE* YOU SHOULD SEE. IN THE CAVE.

ALL RIGHT, BUT THEN WE'RE *LEAVING*.

I'VE WASTED *ENOUGH* TIME, AND I WON'T KEEP MY MASTER WAITING *ANY LONGER*.

AS YOU WISH.

GLOOMY IN HERE.

MY RADIANCE IS *PRETTY DIM* WITHOUT DIRECT STARLIGHT FEEDING ME.

ALLOW ME.

THIS EXPERIENCE SHOULD PROVE TO BE MOST... *ILLUMINATING*.

DEAR LORD!

I *KNOW* THIS PLACE!

I'VE *BEEN* HERE!

THIS IS THE *LASCAUX CAVE* IN FRANCE. ON *EARTH*.

I *VISITED* THIS WHEN I WAS A *TEEN-AGER* ON HOLIDAY IN EUROPE.*

THESE ARE THE CAVE PAINTINGS I SAW.

*AS MENTIONED IN S.S.# 11.--CRAIG

THEY LOOK *NEW* THOUGH.

AND THOSE *CREATURES* OUTSIDE... THEY WERE *HUMAN!*

ALL OF WHICH MEANS WE *TIME TRAVELED*.

WE *ACTUALLY* TRAVELED IN TIME!

YES.

I'M HOME.

TENS OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS BEFORE I WAS BORN, BUT I'M HOME.

THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF SIMILAR WORLDS, EACH UNIQUE AND RIPE WITH POSSIBILITY.

DO YOU STILL FEEL "NOBODY WOULD MISS IT"?

I'VE LED GALACTUS TO PLANETS JUST LIKE THIS...AND NEVER GIVEN IT A SECOND THOUGHT.

I ADMITTED I WOULD SACRIFICE THESE PEOPLE, HAD GALACTUS DESIRED IT.

MY OWN ANCESTORS...HOW... HOW COULD I?

TAKE ME AWAY...

...TAKE ME AWAY...

...AWAY...

WE'RE GOING BACK NOW, BUT DON'T FORGET WHAT YOU'VE SEEN.

ALL RIGHT... I UNDERSTAND...

WAIT.

WAIT FOR A MOMENT.

I JUST WANT TO.. I NEED TO...

...TOUCH THIS PLACE. MAKE IT REAL.

SO I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER.

I'M OKAY NOW.

WE CAN LEAVE.

CONCENTRATE, NOVA.

ANY ***ERRORS*** AND WE COULD END UP ***DISPLACED*** IN TIME.

I'M READY.

I WON'T LET YOU DOWN ***THIS TIME,*** SURFER.

REVERSE YOUR THRUST BEFORE THE PLANET'S GRAVITY CAPTURES US!

THANK YOU, NORRIN.

I... WOULD HAVE ***NEVER*** REALIZED.

IT WAS ***NECESSARY.*** YOUR ***RESPONSIBILITY*** MUST BE TEMPERED WITH ***KNOWLEDGE.***

NOW THAT YOU ***HAVE*** THAT KNOWLEDGE, USE IT ***WISELY.***

OR YOU MAY COME TO ***REGRET*** IT.

FAREWELL.

I FOUND ANOTHER, ***UNINHABITED*** WORLD TO ***SATE*** GALACTUS THAT DAY. ***ONE*** CIVILIZATION, AT LEAST, WAS SAVED...

...BUT I DON'T KNOW IF ***THIS ONE*** WILL BE ***SO*** LUCKY.

THERE'S NOTHING ELSE IN THIS SECTOR THAT HAS THE PROPER MAKE-UP ALLOWING GALACTUS TO EXTRACT ENERGY.

ITS INHABITANTS AREN'T EVEN NECESSARY TO THE PROCESS. THEY'RE JUST IN THE WAY.

MY MASTER MADE IT CLEAR TIME WAS OF THE ESSENCE. I CAN'T AFFORD TO SEARCH FURTHER AFIELD.

IT HAS TO BE THIS WORLD IF GALACTUS IS TO BE SATISFIED.

MY LOYALTY DEMANDS I BRING HIM HERE WITH HASTE.

MY CONSCIENCE ADVISES ME OTHERWISE.

BUT IF GALACTUS BELIEVES THANOS TO BE A DIRE THREAT, WHAT CHOICE DO I HAVE?

NO CHOICE.

NO CHOICE AT ALL.

THIS WORLD WILL *SUSTAIN* ME THROUGH THE COMING *CONFLICT.*

YOU HAVE DONE *WELL,* MY HERALD.

I ONLY DID... MY DUTY.

MASTER...

YOU REALIZE THIS PLANET IS *INHABITED.* ITS PEOPLE ARE SIMPLE FARMERS.

IS THERE NO WAY THEY CAN BE *SPARED* ?

WHAT DO I CARE FOR ANY *ORGANISMS* THAT CLING TO THIS BODY?

I REQUIRE THE *ENERGY* THIS PLANET CAN PROVIDE. ANYTHING ELSE IS OF *NO CONSEQUENCE.*

EVEN WERE THERE *TIME* TO EVACUATE THE PLANET, I WOULD *IGNORE* YOUR REQUEST.

GALACTUS BOWS TO *NO WILL* OTHER THAN HIS OWN, *PARTICULARLY* THAT OF A HIRELING.

YOUR FEALTY IS TO ME ALONE, NOVA!

SEE THAT YOU *REMEMBER* THAT.

OF...OF COURSE, MASTER, I...

SILENCE!

YOUR TASK IS ACCOMPLISHED. I NO LONGER *REQUIRE* YOUR PRESENCE.

LEAVE ME THAT I MIGHT PREPARE.

YES, MASTER.

THANOS THINKS TO *SCARE ME OFF* WITH *PARLOR TRICKS*. HE HAS YET TO *FACE ME* IN ALL MY MIGHT.

THEN WE SHALL SEE IF HE IS TRULY THE *"GOD"* HE CLAIMS TO BE.

MMMM

KAARRRUMBLE!

IT IS FINISHED.

GALACTUS IS WHOLE ONCE AGAIN.

ALL IS AS IT SHOULD BE, HERALD. MY THANKS.

SINCE YOUR SELECTION PROVED SO... INVIGORATING, I WILL OVERLOOK YOUR EARLIER INDISCRETION.

I TRUST IT WILL NOT HAPPEN AGAIN, THOUGH.

COME.

THERE IS MUCH TO BE DONE IF THANOS IS TO FALL.

ALL GONE.

EVERYTHING DESTROYED IN A MATTER OF SECONDS, BECAUSE I BROUGHT HIM HERE.

ALL THESE LIVES ENDED HORRIBLY. THEY COULDN'T EVEN UNDERSTAND WHAT KILLED THEM, LET ALONE WHY.

THESE DEATHS ARE MEANINGLESS TO GALACTUS. THEY ARE BENEATH HIS NOTICE.

BUT I HAVE NO SUCH COMFORT. THIS CARNAGE RESTS ON MY HEAD.

I ACCEPT MY PART IN THIS HORROR. I CAN DO NOTHING TO CHANGE IT.

BUT I WONDER...

...WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I'M FORCED TO MAKE THIS DECISION AGAIN?

IN TWO WEEKS, SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAPPENS ON TITAN!

BE HERE FOR:

The HERO in ABSENCE!

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THE COSMIC AVENGER

QUASAR

& THE INFINITY GAUNTLET CROSSOVER

IN HIS ALL NEW AND FINAL COSTUME

DAVE HOOVER

50 YEARS OF CAPTAIN AMERICA
1941 – 1991

TILL DEATH DO WE PART!

THE THREAT TO EXISTENCE THAT QUASAR WAS GROOMED TO COMBAT HAS AT LONG LAST BEEN VANQUISHED...

...BUT THE PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE'S TRIUMPHANT MOOD WILL BE SHORT LIVED.

FOR EVEN AS HE FERRIES HIS COMPANIONS MOONDRAGON AND MAKKARI HOMEWARD, AN EQUALLY FORMIDABLE MENACE LOOMS ON THE HORIZON...

...ABOUT TO THROW DOWN HIS INFINITY GAUNTLET!

SO YOU MEAN WHILE I WAS PASSED OUT, YOU WENT AND DEFEATED MAELSTROM AND RAN OFF TO THE TAILOR'S TO GET NEW DUDS?

UH... SOMETHING LIKE THAT, MAK.

THE EIGHT BILLION YEAR FUNERAL

MARK GRUENWALD • WRITER
DAVE HOOVER • GUEST PENCILER
FRED FREDRICKS • GUEST INKER
JANICE CHIANG • LETTERER
PAUL BECTON • COLORIST
KELLY CORVESE • NEW EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO • OLD EDITOR IN CHIEF

NEXT TIME HOW ABOUT SAVING A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR *ME* TO DO, Q-STER? SHEESH, YOU SURE KNOW HOW TO MAKE A GUY FEEL *SUPERFLUOUS!*

DON'T WORRY, MAK, YOU'LL ALWAYS BE "*FLUOUS*" IN MY BOOK!

HA! BOY, YOU *ARE* IN A GOOD MOOD!

KEN, DO YOU THINK THAT WITH ALL OF MR. VAUGHN'S POWERS HE'LL FIND SOME WAY TO... TO *SURVIVE...?*

I WISH I *KNEW*, KAYLA.

YOO-*HOO!* ANYBODY HOME?

I WISH I --

OH!

WHEN I SIGNED UP TO BE MR. VAUGHN'S *SECRETARY*, I NEVER DREAMED I'D BE GETTING MIXED UP IN SUCH CRAZY STUFF...

MR. VAUGHN!? OH, MR. VAUGHNNNNNNN-- *WENDELL!*

IN THE FLESH.

WHAT *HAPPENED?!* WE THOUGHT YOU TWO WERE--WERE *DEAD!*

LONG STORY, BUT OBVIOUSLY WE GOT *BETTER*. SUFFICE TO SAY, THAT THE COSMIC MENACE I WAS APPOINTED TO COMBAT IS *GONE FOR GOOD*...

...ALL OF MAELSTROM'S LITTLE *HELPERS* HAVE BEEN LOCKED AWAY...

...AND I EVEN GOT MY *HANDS* PUT BACK GOOD AS NEW!

OH, IT'S SO GOOD TO *SEE YOU*... I WAS-- SO--SO--*FRIGHTENED* THAT YOU--

SORRY YOU AND KEN HAD TO *SUFFER* THROUGH ALL OF THAT JUST BECAUSE YOU HAPPENED TO BE MY *FRIENDS*...

I SWEAR I'LL DO EVERYTHING I *CAN* TO PREVENT ANYTHING LIKE THAT FROM, UM...

HER *EYES*... MAKING ME *MELT*...

ENOUGH!

HUH? HEATHER--?

APPARENTLY YOU DON'T *UNDERSTAND* SOMETHING, QUASAR.

I LOVE YOU. I AM THE *PERFECT WOMAN* FOR YOU. THEREFORE I THINK IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR YOU TO RETURN *MY* AFFECTIONS.

SORRY, KAYLA.

NOW HOLD ON ONE DOG-GONE *MOMENT* HERE, MOONDRAGON! I'M *FLATTERED* BY YOUR FEELINGS TOWARD ME, BUT I DON'T THINK YOU'RE WELL VERSED IN HOW *LOVE* WORKS!

OF *COURSE* I AM.

KAYLA, YOU'RE *GLAD* TO SEE YOUR EMPLOYER'S ALIVE, BUT YOU DON'T FEEL *LOVE* FOR HIM, DO YOU?

WELL, I--

NNNNNO...

...IT'S *MIKE* THAT I LOVE!

MMMPH?!?

?

YOU *MADE* HER SAY THAT AND DO THAT, DIDN'T YOU? AND NOW THAT I THINK OF IT YOU USED YOUR *MENTAL POWERS* TO PUSH KAYLA INTO *MIKE'S ARMS* THAT NIGHT I TOLD HER MY *SECRET IDENTITY*, TOO!*

STOP MESSING WITH PEOPLE'S *MINDS* THIS INSTANT, OR I WON'T EVEN *LIKE YOU* MUCH LESS *LOVE YOU!*

*ISSUE #19.

WH--WHAT--OH, WHAT WAS I--

I'M SO EMBARRASSED!

I HAVE *RELEASED* HER, QUASAR. NOW LISTEN TO ME AND *HEED ME WELL:* I AM THE *IDEAL WOMAN* FOR YOU.

I AM THE ONLY HUMAN BEING WHO CAN TRULY *APPRECIATE* YOUR COSMICNESS AND SHARE IT WITH YOU TO THE *FULLEST.*

TO LOVE ANYBODY *ELSE* BUT *ME* WOULD BE A TOTAL WASTE OF *TIME* AND *ENERGY.*

HEATHER, YOU LISTEN TO **ME**: YOU'RE A VERY **SMART WOMAN** BUT YOU DON'T SEEM TO HAVE A CLUE AS TO HOW **LOVE** WORKS.

LOGIC HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.

IT'S ABOUT **FEELINGS** AND **CARING** AND SPIRITUAL **CONNECTIONS**. IT'S ABOUT PLACING ANOTHER PERSON'S **NEEDS** AND **DESIRES** AND THERE BESIDE YOUR OWN.

I'M NOT SAYING I COULD **NEVER** LOVE YOU. THERE ARE **MANY** THINGS ABOUT YOU I ADMIRE.

WHAT I'M SAYING IS RIGHT NOW I **DON'T** LOVE YOU.

THEN **LOVE HER!** FIND OUT WHAT I ALREADY **KNOW** BY BEING INSIDE HER MIND--THAT SHE IS **SHALLOW** AND **ORDINARY!**

AND WHEN YOU ARE READY TO KNOW **PROFOUND, MATURE, COSMIC LOVE**, YOU'LL SEE I AM THE **ONLY WOMAN** FOR YOU.

GOOD DAY!

SLAM

HMMM...AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN **THROUGH** TOGETHER IN THE PAST FEW DAYS, I'D PREFER IT HADN'T ENDED LIKE **THAT**...

;HHHHH;

PEOPLE, I HAVE ONE LAST **TASK** TO UNDERTAKE BEFORE ALL THE LOOSE ENDS OF THE **COSMIC ASSASSIN AFFAIR** ARE TIED UP--

--WHY DON'T YOU GUYS SEE WHAT YOU CAN SALVAGE OF OUR **BUSINESS** HERE...

...THEN TONIGHT WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A **VICTORY CELEBRATION** LIKE YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE, OKAY?

I'LL BE IN MY OFFICE.

AS EXHILARATED AS I AM TO NOT HAVE THE BIG COSMIC *THREAT* HANGING OVER MY *HEAD* ANYMORE...

...I CAN'T FORGET THAT PART OF THE PRICE OF MY *VICTORY* WAS MY COSMIC MENTOR *EON* DIED...!

EON...THE EIGHT BILLION YEAR OLD BEING WHO APPOINTED ME *PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE*... WONDER IF HIS COSMIC AWARENESS ENABLED HIM TO PREDICT HIS *OWN DEATH*...?

HE'S NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO CHEAT *DEATH* LIKE MAK AND I DID. HIS DEMISE WAS PART OF THE *PACT* THE GREAT *ABSTRACT BEINGS* OF THE UNIVERSE STRUCK.

BEHIND THIS BOOKCASE I USED TO HAVE A *PORTAL* TO THE POCKET DIMENSION IN WHICH HE LIVED--

--THE *CONVERSE*.

IT WAS SEALED OFF WHEN EON AND I HAD A BRIEF *FALLING OUT.* *

THEN IT'S TIME I *REOPENED* IT, SO I CAN GO IN AND PAY MY *LAST RESPECTS*.

*ISSUE #19 AGAIN.

THERE.

COULD IT ONLY BE A *WEEK* AGO THAT I LEARNED THE CONVERSE WASN'T REALLY STARRY SPACE--THAT EON'S BODY FILLED *95 PER CENT* OF IT?

SEEMS LIKE A *LIFETIME* AGO.

IT'S SO *EERIE* IN HERE NOW... SO *QUIET* AND *COLD*...

GUESS I NEVER NOTICED HOW *WARM* AND *HOSPITABLE* EON'S LIFE ESSENCE MADE THIS PLACE...

HI, EON...IT'S ME, *QUASAR*. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN *HEAR* ME--AFTER EVERYTHING I'VE BEEN THROUGH, I HESITATE TO MAKE ANY *ASSUMPTIONS*--BUT ANYWAY I'VE COME TO SAY *GOODBYE*...

I NEVER FELT I GOT THE CHANCE TO REALLY *KNOW* Y--

WHAT IN THE *WORLD?* I SENSE... AN *ALIEN PRESENCE* HERE! I'M *NOT ALONE!*

WELL, WHATEVER'S VIOLATING MY MENTOR'S BODY IS GOING TO HAVE TO *ANSWER TO ME!*

MINUTES LATER...

WHAT IN THE--? SOME SORT OF STRUCTURE--A *STARSHIP?* A *CATHEDRAL?*

THERE'S A THRONG OF *BEINGS* OUTSIDE IT!

HEY! WHAT'S GOING *ON* HERE?

THE NAME'S *QUASAR* AND IT'S *MY MENTOR'S BODY* YOU'RE STANDING IN!

AH! *QUASAR,* EON'S PROTECTOR!

THAT'S ME. WHO *ARE* YOU?

I AM *FATH* AND WE ARE THE *MOURNERS!*

THE WHO--?

OUR RELIGIOUS ORDER IS DEDICATED TO THE COMMEMORATION OF THE THE *PASSING* OF ALL GREAT THINGS IN THE UNIVERSE.

GALAXIES, STARS, PLANETS, EVEN *INDIVIDUALS* OF COSMIC NOTE...

IT IS NOT EVERY DAY THAT AN OMNIPOTENT *TIME BEING* SUCH AS EON DIES.

HOW DID YOU *KNOW?*

IT IS OUR *TASK* TO KNOW.

EXCUSE ME, GREAT PROTECTOR. WOULD YOU BE SO KIND AS TO PROVIDE ME WITH CERTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE GREAT *DECEASED?*

WHAT?

IT WILL BE USED IN THE *SERVICE* AS WELL AS BEING INSCRIBED IN THE *PERMANENT RECORD.*

WELL...

HOW DID GREAT EON *DIE?*

WELL, UH... HE HAD *ME* DESTROY A VITAL PART OF HIS *BRAIN*...

...IN ORDER TO KEEP HIS *ASSASSIN* FROM EXTRACTING THE SECRET OF COSMIC AWARENESS.

YOU THEN ARE HIS *GREAT ASSASSIN?*

NO! I WAS HIS *BODYGUARD,* THOUGH I ADMIT IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE I DID A VERY GOOD *JOB* OF IT.

DOES GREAT EON HAVE ANY *NEXT OF KIN?*

UM, NOT THAT HE EVER MENTIONED.

DID HE LEAVE A *LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT?*

NOT THAT I KNOW OF.

ANY INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT HIS *FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS?* WHAT SORT OF SERVICE? WHO TO INVITE? WHERE HE WOULD LIKE HIS *TOMB?*

NO! WE HAD NO TIME TO *DISCUSS* IT!

THEN WOULD IT BE ACCEPTABLE TO EMPOWER *US* WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY TO HANDLE THE ARRANGEMENTS IN THE MANNER WE SEE *FIT?*

SURE. I GUESS.

YOU'VE BEEN MOST *COOPERATIVE,* GREAT BODYGUARD.

SAY, THIS ISN'T GOING TO *COST* ME ANYTHING, IS IT?

NO... THE MOURNERS ARE A *NOT-FOR-PROFIT-SECT.*

MIND IF I *LOOK AROUND* A BIT?

AND...

FROM WHAT I CAN TELL, THE MOURNERS ARE WHAT THEY *APPEAR* TO BE--A RELIGIOUS SECT COMPOSED OF A WHOLE BUNCH OF DIFFERENT ALIEN RACES.

THEIR SHIP CARRIES NO WEAPONS, JUST TONS OF *RELIGIOUS ARTIFACTS.*

GUESS THERE'S NO HARM LETTING THEM DO WHAT THEY WANT.

THE *FUNERAL SERVICE* WILL COMMENCE IN 3.14 OF YOUR DAYS.

WE WOULD BE HONORED IF YOU COULD *ATTEND.*

I'LL BE THERE.

I ACTUALLY *LIKE* THE IDEA OF THERE BEING A BIG *TO-DO* FOR EON.

IF *ANYONE* DESERVES A BIG FUNERAL, IT'S AN *EIGHT BILLION YEAR OLD BEING.*

MEANWHILE, ELSEWHERE...

AWFULLY *DECENT* OF YOU TO LET ME SIT HERE *BESIDE* YOU, *LORD THANOS*...

...I KNOW YOU FASHIONED THIS SEAT FOR *MISTRESS DEATH*, BUT HAVE NOT I, *MEPHISTO*, GREATEST OF ALL DEMONS OF EARTH, PROVED TO BE A WORTHY *COMPANION* TO YOUR EMINENCE?

NOT THAT I BELIEVE I COULD EVER *REPLACE* MISTRESS DEATH IN YOUR AFFECTIONS--*HEAVEN FORBID!* I JUST THINK THAT AS A COUNSELOR, A LIEUTENANT, AND A DEVOTED *SERVANT* YOU COULD NOT FIND A--

HAHAHAHA

MY LORD? PRAY TELL ME WHAT IS SO *FUNNY!*

I HAVE JUST PERCEIVED THAT ONE OF MY *GREATEST ENEMIES* IS *DEAD!*

A *VICTIM* OF YOUR HALVING OF THE UNIVERSE'S *POPULATION*, SIRE?

NO. MY POPULATION IMPLOSION DID NOT AFFECT THE LIKES OF *HIM*.

WHO, SIRE?

BEHOLD ANCIENT *EON*, SECOND ELDEST OF THE TIME BEINGS...THE ENTITY MOST RESPONSIBLE FOR MY *FIRST IGNOMINIOUS DEFEAT!*

IT WAS EON WHO BROUGHT INTO BEING THE RELENTLESS *DRAX THE DESTROYER* TO PLAGUE ME...AND APPOINTED THE LATE *CAPTAIN MAR-VELL* PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE AND GAVE HIM THE POWER TO THWART MY EARLY MACHINATIONS.

IF NOT YOU, WHO *KILLED* EON, MILORD?

WHILE I HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN *MY OWN* AGENDA, THERE ROSE AN EARTH BEING CALLED *MAELSTROM*, A BEING WHOSE POWER MIGHT HAVE RIVALLED *MY OWN*.

THIS MAELSTROM--NOW IRREVOCABLY *DESTROYED* HIMSELF--MANEUVERED MAR-VELL'S *SUCCESSOR* INTO KILLING EON. THUS I AM SPARED THE TROUBLE AND HAVE *ONE LESS* POWERFUL ENEMY.

SIRE...YOU DO NOT FEEL *CHEATED* THAT YOU COULD NOT DISPATCH EON *PERSONALLY*...?

NOT IN THE *LEAST!* FOR I AM *THANOS*, LORD OF ALL THINGS, AND EVEN IN DEATH--

--I SHALL MAKE EON *SERVE ME!*

BRILLIANT PLAN, MILORD-- *BRILLIANT!*

NOW GET OFF MY BELOVED'S *THRONE*, LACKEY!

IMMEDIATELY, SIRE!

EARTH. THE NEW YORK CITY PENTHOUSE RENTED TO H.D. STECKLEY, ALIAS MOONDRAGON...

QUASAR, QUASAR, *QUASAR*...

WHY IS IT THAT MOST PEOPLE LACK *INSIGHT* AND CANNOT SEE WHAT IS BEST FOR THEM?

IF ONLY YOUR MIND WAS NOT PROOF TO MENTAL "*PERSUASION*"...!

I AM *NOT* A WOMAN WHO TAKES REJECTION WELL. ONCE, WHEN I WAS PASSED OVER AS *CELESTIAL MADONNA*,* I SWORE I WOULD NEVER ALLOW MYSELF TO FEEL THE STING OF BEING AN *ALSO-RAN* EVER AGAIN!

**IN THE CLASSIC GIANT-SIZE AVENGERS #4.*

AND YET NOW--BY THE *DARK DRAGON*-- I FEEL THE *PAIN* AND THE *SHAME* OF PERSONAL FAILURE AGAIN!

I CANNOT-- *WILL NOT* ABIDE BY IT!

IF I CAN'T HAVE *YOU*--THE MOST *COSMICALLY CONNECTED* HUMAN BEING IN EXISTENCE--AS MY *CONSORT*...

...I DON'T WANT *ANYBODY!*

BUT I AM NOT READY TO CONCEDE *DEFEAT* AS YET.

IT IS MERELY TIME TO *CHANGE TACTICS*.

AND HERE WITHIN MY PERSONAL *STARCRUISER*, I CAN CONTEMPLATE MY NEXT *PLAN OF ACTION*, FREE OF ALL EARTHLY DISTRACTIONS.

OF THIS MUCH I AM CERTAIN--MY MASQUERADE AS A MERE *HUMAN BEING* IS OVER.

I MAY HAVE BEEN BORN *HEATHER DOUGLAS*, DAUGHTER OF ARTHUR DOUGLAS AND YVETTE STECKLEY, BUT *MOONDRAGON* IS WHO I REALLY AM--EVER SINCE BEING TAKEN TO *TITAN* AND RAISED THERE AT THE AGE OF FOUR.

AND IT IS *MOONDRAGON* WHO SHALL SNARE QUASAR'S HEART.

THE QUESTION IS...*NOW*...?

AHA! AN *ALLY* IS WHAT I NEED.

AND I KNOW JUST WHERE TO *FIND* ONE.

EH?

A SPACESHIP...

...WITH A *CLOAKING DEVICE* RENDERING IT INVISIBLE.

IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH *ME*.

THAT NIGHT, IN WISCONSIN...

THAT *YOU*, GAYLE? YOU'RE HOME FROM WORK EARLY.

GUESS *AGAIN*, MOM.

WENNY!

AW, MY *BRACELETS* GIVE ME AWAY?

OH, SONNER! SO GOOD TO *SEE* YOU! WHAT'S THE OCCASION?

I WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW THE *GOOD NEWS*, MOM. I JUST GOT DONE DEFEATING THE *MAIN BADGUY* I WAS APPOINTED TO PROTECT THE UNIVERSE FROM.

THE UNIVERSE IS *SAFE*, I'M *FINE* AND I CAN'T IMAGINE I'LL *EVER* HAVE TO GO THROUGH ANYTHING SO *DANGEROUS* AGAIN!

THAT'S *WONDERFUL*, SON. AND I SEE YOU CHANGED YOUR *COSTUME*, TOO.

YEAH. *LIKE IT?*

YOU LOOK *GREAT*.

MOM, I, UH, WANT TO *APOLOGIZE* FOR HOW BADLY I ACTED AT *DAD'S FUNERAL.** I WAS REALLY *BUMMED OUT* AND, WELL...

...SINCE THEN I'VE MADE *PEACE* WITH DAD'S MEMORY.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO *APOLOGIZE*, WENDELL. IF I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHEN YOU'RE *UPSET* BY NOW, I SHOULD TURN IN MY *MOTHER'S LICENSE*.

*ISSUE #20.

YOU'RE THE *GREATEST*, MOM.

AND I PROMISE I'M GOING TO VISIT YOU *MORE OFTEN* FROM NOW ON.

I WON'T HOLD YOU TO IT.

THREE DAYS LATER, HAVING CELEBRATED WITH HIS FRIENDS, PICKED UP THE PIECES OF HIS PROFESSIONAL LIFE, AND HELPED A FELLOW AVENGER ON ONE OF HIS CASES;* QUASAR RETURNS TO THE **EONVERSE** AT THE APPOINTED HOUR...

WHEW. LOOKS LIKE I'M THE **LAST** TO ARRIVE.

THAT **TOTEM POLE**... ALMOST LOOKS LIKE IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE **EON.** COULD THAT BE WHAT EON **REALLY LOOKED LIKE ?**

HE TOLD ME THAT ALL I'D EVER **SEEN** OF HIM WAS THE **PART** HE EXTENDED INTO MY UNIVERSE!

AND WHO THE HECK ARE ALL THESE **GUESTS ?** THAT SECTION BELOW ME LOOKS LIKE IT'S POPULATED WITH THE **DEATH FIGURES** OF A COUPLE DOZEN DIFFERENT WORLDS.

HOPE THEY DON'T MAKE ME SIT IN **THAT** SECTION!

* SEE **CAPTAIN AMERICA** #392, CURRENTLY ON SALE.

AHH, **EON'S CHAMPION** HAS ARRIVED. LET US BEGIN.

RIGHT THIS WAY, GREAT QUASAR.

HELLO.

LIFE BE PRAISED.

RIGHT.

DEAR FRIENDS, WE ARE GATHERED TOGETHER AT THIS JUNCTURE IN SPACE-TIME TO MARK THE PASSING OF A ***GREAT INDIVIDUAL...*** A SINGULAR ENTITY WHO MADE AN ENORMOUS CONTRIBUTION TO THE ***UNIVERSE*** WE ALL SHARE...

EON, HE WAS CALLED, AND HE WAS THE ELDEST OF ***ETERNITY'S CHILDREN.*** HE IS BELIEVED TO HAVE COME INTO BEING MOMENTS AFTER ***TIME*** BEGAN. HE IS SAID TO HAVE ALIGNED HIMSELF WITH THE ***COSMIC AXIS*** ABOUT WHICH THE UNIVERSE REVOLVED.

HE WAS ONE OF THE GREAT ***ABSTRACT ENTITIES*** OF THE UNIVERSE, AND YET HE WENT ***BEYOND*** ABSTRACTION. THROUGH HIS INFINITE ***CARING,*** HE BECAME ONE OF THE CHIEF ***CARETAKERS OF LIFE*** IN THE COSMOS. TRULY THE UNIVERSE MAY NEVER SEE HIS LIKE AGAIN.

WOE UNTO US, GREAT EON IS GONE. ANCIENT OF DAYS WAS HE--BUT NOT EVEN HE WAS ***FOREVER.*** HIS LIFE ***ENHANCED*** EACH OF OUR OWN... HIS DEATH MAKES US REEXAMINE OUR ***OWN*** RELATIONSHIP WITH THE INEXORABLE ***CONSTANTS OF EXISTENCE.***

WEIRD. BUT WHAT FATH IS SAYING IS MORE ***COMFORTING*** TO ME THAN WHAT THE MINISTER SAID AT MY OWN ***FATHER'S*** FUNERAL...

MAYBE I'M ***NOT*** THE ATHEIST I THOUGHT I WAS. MAYBE I JUST HAVEN'T DISCOVERED THE GOD THAT'S ***RIGHT*** FOR ME...

STOP THESE PROCEEDINGS!

YOU PAY YOUR **RESPECTS** TO AN ENTITY WHO DESERVES **NONE!** EON WAS A BLOATED **NON-ENTITY** WHO DID NOTHING BUT TAKE UP **TOO MUCH SPACE.** THE UNIVERSE IS **BETTER OFF** WITHOUT HIM!

THANOS!

HOW DID HE--

DO NOT **ANTAGONIZE** HIM, SARDAN!

YOU ARE NOT **WELCOME** HERE!

MY ONLY REGRET IS THAT **I** HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH HIS **DEMISE!**

OH, MAN-- AND I TOLD MY **MOM** MY LIFE WOULDN'T BE AS **DANGEROUS** ANYMORE! THANOS WAS THE THREAT TO THE UNIVERSE MY **PREDECESSOR** WAS APPOINTED TO COMBAT. HE'S EASILY **MY THREAT-- MAELSTORM'S-- EQUAL!**

YOUR DIS-RESPECT HAS **NO PLACE** HERE, THANOS.

WHY DON'T YOU JUST BE A SWEETHEART AND **LEAVE?**

AND IF I **DON'T,** EARTH BOY?

THEN I **MAKE** YOU.

BE MY GUEST.

FATH, YOU'D BETTER SEE TO GETTING EVERYONE TO **SAFETY.**

NO **TELLING** WHAT BULLY-BOY HERE MAY DECIDE TO DO.

DON'T THINK HE'S BUYING INTO MY **TOUGH GUY ACT...**

ENERGY FLUX--?!

FLAAASH

TRYING TO HIT A GUY FROM *BEHIND*, MR.T--?

EVERYBODY-- CLEAR OUT!

YOU MUST'VE BEEN *TEACHER'S PET* AT SUPER-VILLAIN SCHOOL!

NOT SURE WHAT TO *TRY* WITH THIS GUY--

--I'VE BEEN TOLD HE'S *STOOD UP* TO GETTING *THOR'S HAMMER* SMASHED IN HIS FACE WITHOUT *FLINCHING!*

BE THAT AS IT MAY, I'VE GOT TO KEEP HIM *OCCUPIED* TILL THE MOURNERS CAN GET TO *SAFETY!*

WHOOMP

KNOW WHAT THIS *FIST* IS MADE OF, THANNY? THE ENERGY *YOU* SHOT ME WITH. *NEAT,* HUH?

NO... *INEFFECTIVE.*

I AM *THANOS,* THE NEW *GOD* OF ALL THAT IS! WITH MY *INFINITY GAUNTLET,* I CONTROL ALL *ASPECTS OF REALITY!*

AND *YOU,* EON'S WHELP, WOULD BE WISE TO *BOW DOWN* BEFORE ME!

SORRY, MISTER T-- BUT I HAVE A HARD TIME THINKING OF A WALKING BRICK *OUTHOUSE* WITH A BAD COMPLEXION AS "*GOD.*"

NO OFFENSE.

UTTERING *WITTICISMS* WHEN YOU'RE MOMENTS AWAY FROM ABSOLUTE ANNIHILATION. YOU ARE *UNLIKE* THOSE WITH WHOM I USUALLY CONTEND.

I PREFER *THEM.*

HA!

FORMED THE HEAVIEST *QUANTUM-CONSTRUCT* I COULD MUSTER AND CAUGHT HIM *OFF-GUARD!*

WITH ANY LUCK...

UH-OH.

BOOOM

KRTOOM

MEANWHILE, BACK ON EARTH...

WITHIN THAT SINGULAR-LOOKING DWELLING... I SENSE *COSMIC POWER* NOT UNLIKE MY OWN...

WHO *RESIDES* THERE?

A SIMPLE *ENERGY THRUST* AND--

WHAT IS IT YOU *WANT*, GOLDEN WOMAN?

YOU--ARE THE *SILVER SURFER!*

I AM. AND YOU?

I AM CALLED *HER.*

I HAVE RETURNED TO THE WORLD OF MY *ORIGINATION*-- *WHY* IS NOT IMPORTANT ANYMORE.*

WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT I HAVE DECIDED TO FULFILL MY GENETIC DESTINY... TO LOCATE MY *IDEAL COUNTERPART...*

WOMAN, I HAVE *NO TIME* FOR THIS RIGHT NOW. THE UNIVERSE IS IN *UTMOST DANGER.* EVEN AS WE, HALF THE POPULATION OF THE UNIVERSE IS AT RISK OF BEING *DESTROYED.*

IF YOU ARE NOT WILLING TO *JOIN THE FIGHT*--

I'VE HAD MY *FILL* OF FIGHTING OF LATE.

SLAM

I *FELT* IT! ENERGY RESIDUE ON THE SURFERS INVIOLABLE BODY-- TRACES OF THE MAN I THOUGHT *DEAD* ALL THIS TIME-- MY *SOULMATE*, THE MALE *ME!*

WHAT DO I DO NOW?

*IF YOU'RE CURIOUS, THOUGH, SEE **ALPHA FLIGHT #98-100.***

--AND MATE WITH HIM SO WE MIGHT CREATE THE MOST *PERFECT RACE* OF BEINGS UNIVERSE HAS EVER SEEN.

--THEN *AWAY* WITH YOU THEN!

THE EONSPHERE...

ARE YOU ***ENJOYING*** YOURSELF, EARTHBOY?

DOES IT AMUSE YOU TO SEE HOW ***PUNY*** YOUR POWER IS COMPARED TO THAT OF A ***GOD***?

GET OFF IT, THANNY. YOU'RE A ***PURPLE GORILLA*** WITH DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR. IF YOU'RE A ***GOD***, THEN ***I'M*** THE WIZARD OF OZ.

I AM UNFAMILIAR WITH ***HIM.***

BUT WHAT ***YOU*** ARE IS AN ANNOYING, INSOLENT ***FLEA.***

WHOAA--!

SORRY, PURPLE-PUSS-- BUT I'LL-- ***NNGH***-- SAVE MY RESPECT FOR THOSE WHO ***EARN*** IT-- ***NNGH***-- IF YOU DON'T MIND.

VWOOOOSH

TRIED TO ***CRUSH*** ME, BUT I ***QUANTUM-JUMPED*** TO SAFETY!

I WISH FOR YOU TO ACKNOWLEDGE MY ***EXALTED STATION***, BOY. I WANT YOU TO REALIZE THAT I CONTROL ***ALL REALITY.*** YOU ONLY EXIST BECAUSE I ***PERMIT*** YOU TO!

AS EON'S LAST LEGACY, YOU ARE PARTICULARLY ***UNIMPRESSIVE.*** STILL, I WISH YOU TO DEMONSTRATE ***RESPECT*** FOR YOUR SUPERIOR BEFORE I ***REVOKE YOUR EXISTENCE!***

IT RIPPED A HOLE IN ***EON'S ATMOSPHERE!*** BUT IT'S NOT LIKE ***HE*** NEEDS IT ANYMORE.

TELEPORTATION, EH?

KINDA.

YOU HAVE ABILITIES YOUR PREDECESSOR DID NOT. NOT THAT THEY WILL AVAIL YOU AGAINST ME ANY MORE THAN MAR-VELL'S DID.

OH, NO? YOU MEAN, NOT EVEN IF I DIRECT--

--A HUNDRED MEGATON BLAST RIGHT BETWEEN YOUR EARS?

KRTOOM

HOPE THIS DOES SOMETHING! I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO TAP INTO THE ENERGY OF HIS INFINITY GAUNTLET UNLESS HE'S PROJECTING SOME OF IT.

GUESS HIS INFINITY GEMS AREN'T RELATED TO INFINITY, MY COSMIC BENEFACTOR!

EARTH BOY!

OH, CRUD.

THANOS HAS *RE-FORMED* BELOW!

YOUR FUTILE ANTIC HAVE BEEN MODERATELY *AMUSING*--

-- BUT I HAVE OTHER, *GREATER* FOES TO TORMENT.

I GO-- BUT I LEAVE YOU WITH A *PARTING GIFT*...

...SOME *PLAYMATES* PLUCKED FROM EON'S VESTIGAL *MEMORY* AND GIVEN FORM FROM THE SUBSTANCE OF *EON'S BODY!*

WHAT IN--?

FITTING TO FASHION *GLADIATORS* FROM THE GROUND TO PLAGUE *YOU* EVEN AS EON ONCE FASHIONED THE *DESTROYER* FROM THE GROUND TO PLAGUE *ME!*

BEHOLD, QUASAR, FOUR ***PREVIOUS WIELDERS*** OF YOUR PRECIOUS ***QUANTUM-BANDS***-- BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE BY THE ***ABSOLUTE POWER*** THAT IS MINE!

REE OF THE LONG-EXTINCT ARCHEOPIANS!

AND FINALLY, THE ***STYGIAN STARBENDER***-- THE FIRST PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE EVER APPOINTED BY EON!

MARVEL BOY, THE PREVIOUS WEARER OF YOUR WRIST-TRINKETS!

TRANTRA THE TRILL--THE FIRST NON-HUMANOID QUANTUM-BAND POSSESSOR!

ALL OF THEM, ARMED WITH FULLY FUNCTIONAL ***REPLICAS*** OF YOUR QUANTUM-BANDS, AND SHARING A COMMON PURPOSE-- ***TO DESTROY YOU!***

ONE, PERHAPS ***TWO*** OF THESE GLADIATORS YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO ***BEST.*** BUT ***ALL FOUR*** OF THEM? ***NOT A CHANCE!***

FAREWELL, QUASAR-- OR SHALL I SAY, FARE ***POORLY?***

AND AS THANOS TELEPORTS BACK TO HIS PALACE, QUASAR IS LEFT TO FACE HIS FOES, UNAWARE OF THANOS'S **TRUE PURPOSE** IN JOURNEYING TO THE EONVERSE...

...TO TURN HIS NOW-DEAD ENEMY'S SIX MILLION MILE WIDE **BODY INSIDE OUT!**

SUDDENLY, THE STUFF OF EON'S BODY COMES SPEWING OUT OF **EVERY PORTAL** HE'S EVER MADE INTO OUR UNIVERSE, EVEN THOSE THAT HAVE BEEN **SEALED** FOR MILLENIA.

ON EARTH, THAT PORTAL IS LOCATED IN **FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA,** IN THE OFFICE IN WHICH QUASAR CONDUCTS BUSINESS IN HIS CIVILIAN GUISE.

WITHIN MINUTES, EON-MATTER FILLS THE SMALL **BUSINESS SUITE--**

--AND **BURSTS OUT.**

THOUGH EON HAS BEEN **BRAIN-DEAD** FOR SEVERAL DAYS NOW, MUCH OF HIS IMMENSE BODY HAS YET TO BECOME **AWARE** OF THAT FACT, AND CONTINUES TO **FUNCTION** AS IT ALWAYS HAS...!

IN THREE HOURS, EON'S BODY WILL ENGULF THE ISLAND OF **MANHATTAN...**

IN THREE DAYS, **THE WORLD...**

CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE!

MARVEL COMICS

QUASAR™

ATTACK OF THE QUANTUM BANDERS!™

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50 YEARS OF CAPTAIN AMERICA 1941 – 1991

DAVE HOOVER

WENDELL VAUGHN . . . THE FIRST EARTH MAN EVER APPOINTED PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE. BONDED TO THE ENERGY-TRANSFORMING QUANTUM-BANDS THAT ARE BOTH WEAPONS AND SYMBOLS OF HIS STATION, HE FIGHTS AN ONGOING BATTLE TO DEFEND ALL LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE FROM COSMIC EVIL!

STAN LEE PRESENTS . . . QUASAR!

FROM HERE TO MATERNITY

TWO HOURS AGO, HALF THE PEOPLE IN NEW YORK CITY **VANISHED** FROM EXISTENCE, RANDOM CASUALTIES OF THE FIRST GREAT EXERCISE OF **POWER** OF THE MAD DEATH-WORSHIPPER KNOWN AS **THANOS**...

BUT PERHAPS THEY WERE THE **LUCKY ONES**. FOR THEIR NEAR-INSTANTANEOUS DEMISES SPARED THEM THE **HORRORS** THAT AROSE IN ITS AFTERMATH...

AMONG THESE HORRORS IS THE SIX MILLION MILE WIDE BEING **EON** WHOSE STILL-WRITHING CORPSE THANOS HAS TURNED INSIDE OUT, CAUSING ITS MASS TO **BURST INTO OUR** DIMENSION THROUGH THE INTERDIMENSIONAL PORTAL INTO **FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA**...

WHAT *IS* IT--?!?

MOVE IT! IT'S GONNA FALL ON US!

THE WORLD'S GONE *CRAZY!*

*SEE INFINITY GAUNTLET #1.

MARK GRUENWALD • WRITER
GREG CAPULLO • PENCIL ART
KEITH WILLIAMS • INK ART
JANICE CHIANG • LETTERER
PAUL BECTON • COLORIST
KELLY CORVESE • EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO • EDITOR IN CHIEF

ALTHOUGH EON HAS BEEN **BRAIN DEAD** FOR ALMOST A WEEK NOW, VAST EXPANSES OF ITS **BODY** HAVE YET TO BE SHUT DOWN...

CERTAIN **ORGANS** STILL FUNCTION.

MILLIONS OF **PSEUDOPODIC LIMBS** STILL FORM AND CARRY OUT THEIR AUTONOMIC ACTIVITIES...

SYMBIOTIC MICROORGANISMS STILL MULTIPLY AND THRIVE...

IT MAY TAKE WEEKS BEFORE THE HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF CUBIC MILES OF EON'S BODY, DEPRIVED OF THEIR PRIME ANIMATING FORCE, FINALLY GIVE UP ALL SEMBLANCE OF LIFE...

BUT BY THAT TIME, AT THE CURRENT RATE AT WHICH EON'S SUBSTANCE POURS THROUGH THE PORTAL, THE EARTH'S ENTIRE SURFACE WILL HAVE BEEN SUBMERGED BENEATH EXTRADIMENSIONAL ORGANIC MATTER TO AN AVERAGE HEIGHT OF 12,000 FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL.

ALL LIFE ON EARTH--PLANT AND ANIMAL, TERRESTRIAL AND MARINE--WILL HAVE SUFFOCATED BY THEN. NEW YORK CITY WILL BE THE FIRST TO GO.

THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR ESTABLISHING A **PORTAL** IN FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA IN THE FIRST PLACE IS ON THE **FAR SIDE** OF THE PORTAL AT PRESENT, SOMEWHERE INSIDE **EON'S BODY.**

HIS NAME IS **QUASAR**, AND ONCE HE WAS EON'S CLOSEST COMPANION, THE LATEST IN AN AGES-LONG LINE OF BEINGS EON APPOINTED TO BE **PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE.**

QUASAR IS **UNAWARE** OF WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THE REST OF EON'S BODY RIGHT NOW. HE IS PREOCCUPIED WITH YET **ANOTHER** OF THANOS'S MACHINATIONS, ONE DESIGNED ESPECIALLY FOR **HIM.**

PRIOR TO QUASAR'S ACQUISITION OF THE ENERGY-MANIPULATING QUANTUM-BANDS, **OTHER** ENTITIES WIELDED THEM, MOST OF THEM PROTECTORS OF THE UNIVERSE OF PREVIOUS ERAS.

FOUR SUCH BEINGS HAVE BEEN **RESURRECTED** BY THANOS, THEIR **PERSONALITIES** RE-CREATED FROM THE REMNANTS OF EON'S **MIND**, THEIR **BODIES** RE-CREATED FROM THE MATTER OF EON'S **BODY**...

REE OF LONG-DEAD ARCHEOPIA...

THE STYGIAN **STARBENDER**, THE ORIGINAL PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE...

TANTRA OF THE TRILLS...

AND MARVEL BOY, THE FIRST EARTHMAN TO WIELD THE QUANTUM-BANDS, QUASAR'S IMMEDIATE PREDECESSOR.

COME **ON**, GUYS! SO **WHAT** IF THANOS TOLD YOU TO ATTACK ME? YOU'VE GOT MINDS OF YOUR **OWN**, DON'T YOU?

THERE'S NO **NEED** FOR US TO FIGHT, IS THERE?

THANOS HAS OUTFITTED EACH OF THEM WITH HIS OWN SET OF **QUANTUM-BANDS**, AND INSTILLED WITHIN THEIR BRAINS **HATRED** FOR THE YOUNG UPSTART WHO STANDS BEFORE THEM...!

YWOOM

I'LL TAKE THAT AS A *YES.*

WHEW! SO MUCH FOR MY POWERS OF *PERSUASION.*

BARELY MANAGED TO WHIP UP A *PROTECTIVE BUBBLE* IN TIME!

USUALLY I CAN *SENSE* ENERGY DISCHARGES COMING A MILE AWAY--

--BUT *THEIR* ENERGY IS IDENTICAL TO *MINE!* MY QUANTUM-BANDS CAN'T DISTINGUISH IT FROM *MY OWN OUTPUT!*

ON THE OTHER HAND, THAT PRESENTS SOME *ADVANTAGES,* TOO!

OH, FELLAS? AS MUCH AS I LOVE THE *LIGHT SHOW--*

--ALL YOU'RE DOING IS GIVING ME *EXTRA ENERGY* TO FORTIFY MY BUBBLE WITH!

OR DO I HAVE TO *EXPLAIN* TO YOU THE ENERGY-ABSORBING PROPERTIES OF THE BANDS?

THEY'VE *STOPPED.*

NOW I'LL JUST CONVERT MY *DEFENSIVE BARRIER* INTO A BARRAGE OF FOOT-LONG BLUNT-ENDED *PROJECTILES--*

--AND SEE WHO I CAN CATCH WITH THEIR *GUARD DOWN.*

WHOOMP

WOHHMC!

WHTANG

MANAGED TO DOWN ONE OF THEM.

WHT WHT WHT

LOOK, GUYS-- I DON'T *WANT* TO FIGHT YOU. IN FACT, I'D LOVE TO *TALK* TO YOU AND HEAR ABOUT YOUR *EXPERIENCES* AS PROTECTORS OF THE UNIVERSE.

TALK BAD. FIGHT GOOD.

BUT FIGHTING IS *POINTLESS*! WE'RE ALL TOO *EVENLY MATCHED*. I CAN TAP INTO *YOUR* QUANTUM-BANDS' ENERGY. YOU PROBABLY KNOW HOW TO TAP INTO *MINE*. WE'LL JUST BE *NEUTRALIZING* ONE ANOTHER.

BUT THERE ARE *FOUR* OF US AND ONLY *ONE* OF YOU, EARTHMAN.

AND THERE ARE *OTHER* WAYS TO DESTROY YOU THAN HURLING ABSORBABLE ENERGY-BLASTS.

LORD THANOS HAS PROMISED THAT WHICHEVER OF US KILLS YOU SHALL BE PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE FOR ALL TIME...!

THAT HONOR SHALL BE MINE.

UH-*OH*! THEY'VE ALL FORMED *WEAPONS*! IF THEIR CONTROL OVER *THEIR* QUANTUM-CONSTRUCTS IS ANYWHERE NEAR AS GREAT AS MINE, I WON'T BE ABLE TO *DESTROY THEM*!

YOU GUYS DON'T WANT TO TAKE *TURNS*, DO YOU?

MEANWHILE, SEVERAL MILLION MILES FROM EARTH...

AHA! I'VE FOUND IT!

THANK KRONOS! I SENSE THAT A SPARK OF LIFE STILL RESIDES WITHIN THAT SCABROUS MASS!

DRAWING IT PSYCHOKINETICALLY TOWARD THE AIRLOCK OF MY SHIP IS CHILD'S PLAY.

THE DIFFICULT PART WILL COME ONCE I HAVE THE MASS INSIDE THE SHIP.

THOUGH I HAVE THE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY OF TITAN TO AID AND ABET MY OWN MENTAL ABILITIES I MUST PROCEED WITH UTMOST CAUTION.

A SINGLE MISSTEP EXTRICATING THE MAN FROM THE CONGEALED SHELL THAT HAS FORMED AROUND HIM COULD PROVE FATAL TO HIM--

--OR WORSE, I COULD ACCIDENTALLY REIGNITE THE DORMANT ENERGIES THAT RESIDE WITHIN HIS MORTAL FORM TOO QUICKLY!

THE RESULTANT EXPLOSION WOULD DESTROY THE SENSIA II AND ME ALONG WITH IT!

FOR MOONDRAGON TO PERISH IN SO IGNOMINIOUS A FASHION WOULD BE... ABSURD!

THE *ENERGY STASIS FIELD* I'VE PLACED HIM IN *SHOULD* BE SUFFICIENT TO PREVENT HIS POWER FROM MISFIRING. BUT THERE IS ALWAYS THE POSSIBILITY IT IS *INADEQUATE* TO THE TASK.

I MUST USE MY *PSIONIC FORCE* TO CHIP AWAY THE *DETRITUS* HE'S IN--

--WHILE AT THE SAME TIME MONITORING HIS LIFE SIGNS FOR ANY SUDDEN SPIKES OF *ACTIVITY*.

I MUST STRIKE THE PRECISE BALANCE BETWEEN *HASTE* AND *CAUTION*.

ALMOST AN HOUR LATER...

IT IS DONE.

HIS BODY HAS BEEN FULLY *CLEANSED*.

HIS MIND TREMBLES ON THE BRINK OF *CONSCIOUSNESS*.

I MUST GET HIM INTO HIS PROTECTIVE *RAIMENT*--

--BEFORE HE AWAKENS

SUCH A *HANDSOME* MAN. WERE I NOT DEVOTED TO *QUASAR*, I MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN EXPLORING THE FRONTIERS OF PASSION WITH *HIM*.

BUT *NO*, MY PURPOSE IN REVIVING THIS MAN IS TO ACQUIRE AN *ALLY* IN MY CONQUEST OF QUASAR'S HEART.

HE AWAKENS.

WHAT--? *WHO*--?

YOU ARE THE *JACK OF HEARTS*. I AM *MOONDRAGON*, YOUR SAVIOR.

AND, IN THE EONVERSE...

NNNYN! STARBENDER NEARLY SLASHED MY THROAT!

LET'S HOPE HE NEVER ENCOUNTERED ANYTHING LIKE NUNCHUKAS!

ALL RIGHT! YANKED IT OUT OF HIS HAND--

--BUT FELL ON MY KEISTER IN THE PROCESS!

YIKES! REE ALMOST NAILED ME!

WHOA! HE'S WILLED HIS QUANTUM-BLADE SO STRONG AND SO SHARP THAT IT'S PENETRATING MY FORCE SCREEN--!

GOTTA ROLL BEFORE I'M SKEWERED!

HHH! HHH! HHH!

THAT WAS CLOSE! THOUGH WE'RE ALL TAPPING THE SAME ENERGY, NONE OF US USES IT IN PRECISELY THE SAME WAY!

AND SOME OF THESE GUYS MIGHT HAVE DECADES MORE EXPERIENCE AT USING THEM THAN ME!

TIRING OUT, EARTHMAN? WE'RE NOT.

I CAN'T FIGURE OUT ANY STRATEGY FENDING OFF THEIR BLOWS! LET ME PUT SOME SPACE BETWEEN US--GIVE ME SOME TIME TO THINK!

QUASAR FLEES.

WHAT A DISGRACE TO THE PROTECTORATE HE IS.

HE CAN'T GET FAR, NOT BLAZING A TRAIL THROUGH POOR EON'S CORPSE LIKE HE IS.

WE FOLLOW.

OKAY NOW-- *THINK!* HOW CAN I OUTWIT OR OVERPOWER THESE GUYS? SURE WISH I STILL HAD ALL OF *INFINITY'S POWER!* *

HEY, MY Q-BANDS ARE THE *ORIGINALS!* DOESN'T *THAT* COUNT FOR ANYTHING? COULD THANOS REALLY HAVE MADE THEIRS *EXACTLY* AS GOOD AS MINE?

*AS IN ISSUE #25.

WONDER IF I COULD SOMEHOW TAP *INTO* THEIR BANDS WITHOUT THEIR *KNOWING IT* AND--

HELP ME! THIS UNIVERSE IS ABOUT TO DECAY!

HUH?!! WHAT WAS THAT?

COULD'VE SWORN I HEARD *EON'S MIND!*

CAN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT *NOW!* GOTTA CONCENTRATE ON THE *TASK AT HAND*--

--DEFEATING THE Q-CREW!

AW, MAN--! THEY'RE RIGHT ON *TOP* OF ME!

GOT TO TRY THE *TOTAL ENERGY DRAIN*--

WHOOM!

-OFFF

HA! BY COMBINING OUR QUANTUM-FORCE IN A *COMMON CONSTRUCT*, WE'VE *SMASHED* HIM!

REE EXERTS.

OKAY THEN-- *SQUEEZE!*

HE IS STILL **ALIVE**, STYGIAN STARBENDER. WE MUST STILL JOIN OUR DETERMINATIONS IN ORDER TO CRUSH THE **LIFE FORCE** OUT OF HIS YOUTHFUL BODY.

AND AFTER THE EARTHMAN'S DEAD, WE'LL BATTLE *ONE ANOTHER* FOR THE RIGHT TO CLAIM CREDIT FOR *QUASAR'S DEATH!*

NNNNGKKKK! THEY GOT ME GOOD... FEEL LIKE MY RIBS ARE ABOUT TO SNAP...

STUPID STUPID STUPID! SHOULDN'T'VE LET THEM OUTMANEUVER ME.

IT'S TAKING ALL MY MIGHT JUST KEEPING THESE TWO WEIGHTS APART--

--CAN'T SPARE EVEN AN ERG OF ENERGY TO TRY ANYTHING OFFENSIVE, LET ALONE MY GREAT PLAN TO TAP INTO THEIR Q-BANDS!

WHAT A DISGRACE I AM! TO BEAT THE BIGGEST MENACE IN THE UNIVERSE ONE WEEK AND THEN BE CRUSHED TO DEATH BY A BUNCH OF LACKEYS OF THE NEXT BIG MENACE TO COME ALONG A WEEK LATER!

INFINITY--WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?

THE EARTHMAN SEEMS TO BE TURNING PURPLE. I THINK HE IS LOSING OUR CONTEST OF WILLS.

THREE AGAINST ONE CANNOT WIN.

REE'S RIGHT. I CAN'T WIN THIS TIME.

THEIR WEAPONS ARE JUST AS GOOD AS MINE. THEY KNOW HOW TO USE THEM JUST AS WELL IF NOT BETTER. THEY OUTNUMBER ME.

MIGHT AS WELL THROW IN THE TOWEL.

NO, BLAST IT! GOTTA STIFLE MY DEFEATIST TENDENCIES! WHY DO I ALWAYS HAVE THESE DARK URGES?

I'M A HERO! I'VE TRIUMPHED OVER IMPOSSIBLE ODDS BEFORE! I'M THE PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE--NOT THESE BOZOS!

SOMEHOW I'M GONNA FIND A WAY TO WIN--I'VE GOT TO!

HE WEAKENING?

THOUGHT HE WAS. BUT HE'S MANAGED TO RENEW HIS RESISTANCE.

YOU GOT THAT RIGHT, YOU SON OF--

PLEASE HURRY. NOT MUCH TIME LEFT.

WHAT? THAT VOICE AGAIN! WHO IS IT? WHO'S IN MY HEAD?

IT CAN'T BE EON! INFINITY TOLD ME--EON'S DEFINITELY IN THE THROES OF OBLIVION NOW!

THE VOICE SOUNDED LIKE EON'S... ONLY SOFTER...!

MEANWHILE, ON EARTH, EON'S SUBSTANCE HAS YET TO REACH THE GREENWICH VILLAGE ABODE OF **DOCTOR STRANGE.**

THE COSMIC WOMAN KNOWN AS **HER** HAS, HOWEVER.

THIS IS IT. THE MOST **IMPORTANT MOMENT** OF MY LIFE SO FAR. THE DAY I BEGIN TO FULFILL MY **DESTINY** THE DAY I MEET... **HIM!**

ALL THESE YEARS I THOUGHT HIM **DEAD.** INDEED, I EXHUMED HIS LIFELESS BODY.* BUT NOW, MIRACULOUSLY, HE HAS BEEN **RESTORED TO LIFE.**

I SENSED HIS PRESENCE HERE WHEN I CONVERSED WITH THE **SILVER SURFER** MERE HOURS AGO.

I SHALL-- **WAIT!** THE DOORS OPEN. IT'S--

*WAY BACK IN **MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #63!**

--**HIM!**

WHO **ARE** YOU, WOMAN? WHY ARE YOU CLAD IN GARMENT **IDENTICAL** TO WHAT I ONCE WORE.

CAN YOU NOT **SENSE** WHO I AM? I AM YOUR **FEMALE COUNTERPART**--THE SECOND CREATION OF THOSE SCIENTISTS WHO CREATED **YOU.**

I'VE FASHIONED THIS ATTIRE IN YOUR **HONOR...**

I AM IN THE MIDST OF SOMETHING OF **UNIVERSE-RENDING CONSEQUENCE.*** I DO NOT HAVE TIME FOR RIDDLES OR DISTRACTIONS.

STATE YOUR **BUSINESS,** DOPPELGANGER.

*NO EXAGGERATION. SEE **INFINITY GAUNTLET,** CURRENTLY ON SALE!

MY BUSINESS... IS TO *PROCREATE.* WITH *YOU.*

IT IS OUR DESTINY TO BECOME MOTHER AND FATHER TO A *NEW HUMAN RACE*, A GOLDEN RACE OF *WONDROUS BEINGS*, WHO WILL GROW TO BECOME THE CROWNING GLORY OF THE ENTIRE COSMOS...!

THAT MAY BE *YOUR* DESTINY, WOMAN.

BUT IT IS NOT *MINE.*

PROCREATION IS *RIDICULOUS* TO EVEN CONSIDER IN THE MIDST OF THE UNIVERSAL *CONFLAGRATION* THAT SURROUNDS US.

JOIN THE FIGHT... OR *BEGONE.*

I...I AM NOT...

WAIT! YOU *CAN'T* GO!

I'VE GOT TO MAKE YOU SEE--

SLAM

I COULD *NOT* USE FORCE. NOT AGAINST *HIM.*

I'M SO CONFUSED.

WHAT DO I DO *NOW*...?

I WON'T *LET* YOU!

THE EONVERSE...

WHAT--?

QUASAR OUT!

HUFF HUFF HUFF

I CAN BREATHE AGAIN! THANK EON I MANAGED TO CREATE A WEDGE THAT PRIED THE TWO BLOCKS APART JUST ENOUGH FOR ME TO SQUEEZE OUT!

MY BODY FEELS LIKE ONE BIG BRUISE!

GOTTA LOSE THE Q-CREW FAST OR THEY'LL STICK ME IN SOMETHING I CAN'T SQUEEZE OUT OF--!

WHERE CAN I GO THEY CAN'T FOLLOW?

NOWHERE, I GUESS.

THAT'S IT!

LET 'EM MEET ME AT THE CLOSEST APPROXIMATION OF NOWHERE I KNOW OF!

THE QUANTUM ZONE!

MAYBE JUST MAYBE I CAN WHIP UP A LITTLE SURPRISE FOR THEM HERE!

WHAT I'M PLANNING *SHOULD* WORK.

THIS PLACE IS PART OF THE *INFRASTRUCTURE* OF OUR UNIVERSE--THE PLANE OF *INFINITE POTENTIAL ENERGY* THE QUANTUM-BANDS CONSTANTLY INTERFACE WITH.

ALL THE ENERGIES THE QUANTUM-BANDS TAP ***FLOW THROUGH*** HERE.

MY PURSUERS SHOULD BE HERE ***ANY*** TIME NOW--ASSUMING THEY ALL KNOW HOW TO ***QUANTUM JUMP.***

AH! ***THERE!***

THE EARTHMAN'S AN *IDIOT* IF HE THINKS TO HIDE HERE--OTHER THAN US, HE'S THE ONLY HUNK OF ***MATTER*** IN THIS REALM.

I HAVE A FIX ON HIM! FOLLOW!

HERE THEY COME. READY TO ***PULP ME.***

THIS HAD ***BETTER WORK.***

I KNOW THEY'RE ALL ON GUARD AGAINST ANYONE TRYING TO ***SIPHON*** ENERGY THROUGH THEIR BANDS...

...BUT MAYBE THEY WON'T BE PREPARED FOR SOMEBODY DOING THE ***VERY OPPOSITE!***

AND HERE, FULLY IMMERSED IN ALL THE ENERGY OF THE UNIVERSE, THE ***"BACKGROUND NOISE"*** IS SO INTENSE IT SHOULD ***CAMOUFLAGE*** WHAT I'M DOING TILL IT'S ***TOO LATE TO STOP!***

OKAY, QUANTUM-BANDS--***LET'S DO IT!***

OPENING UP ALL FOURTEEN GEMS ON MY QUANTUM-BANDS TO *FULL CAPACITY*--

--LETTING AS MUCH *QUANTUM-ENERGY* FLOW THROUGH THEM AS THEY CAN *HANDLE*--

--*SURRENDERING* ALL MY POWER TO MY FOES IN ONE BIG *NON-OFFENSIVE BURST*--!

WHOA-*OHHHHHH*! I DO BELIEVE IT *WORKED*!

THE SUDDEN INFLUX OF *SURRENDERED ENERGY* WAS MORE THAN ANY OF THEM WAS PREPARED TO *HANDLE*!

IT GOT *WAY* OUT OF THEIR CONTROL-- CAUSED THEM TO *EXPLODE*!

SO DID I JUST *KILL* THREE *LIVING BEINGS*--

--OR WERE THEY JUST INCREDIBLE *SIMULATIONS*?

DELIVER ME NOW...OR I'LL *DIE*!

THAT *BLASTED VOICE* IN MY HEAD AGAIN!

I'VE GOT TO FIGURE OUT WHERE IT'S *COMING FROM*!

MEANWHILE, IN NEW YORK CITY, EON'S BODY HAS NOW CLAIMED AN AREA OF THIRTY SOME BLOCKS...

...WHILE THE REGION'S VARIOUS SUPER-CHAMPIONS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN RECRUITED BY ADAM WARLOCK TO BATTLE THANOS PITCH IN TO TRY TO SAVE MANHATTAN'S POPULACE FROM THANOS'S DEPREDATIONS...

I'LL TRY TO POWER-PRISM A WALL AROUND THIS THING! YOU GUYS TRY TO AIRLIFT EVERYONE YOU CAN BEHIND MY BARRIER!

YOU GOT IT, SPECTRUM! SQUADRON--FAN OUT!

Bioanalysis of oozing substance inconclusive. It is not terrestrial in origin.

SOME HELP YOU ARE, COMPUTER!

THE NAME'S HYPERION AND THIS IS THE SHAPE. GET ON QUICKLY. WE'LL TAKE YOU TO SAFETY!

B-BUT MY HUSBAND--HE'S STILL INSIDE SOMEWHERE--!

I'M SORRY, MA'AM.

THIS IS NUTS! THIS IS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A 50'S SCI-FI FLICK!

IT'S BAD, *MOONGLOW*--HAVEN'T EVEN MADE IT ALL THE WAY *AROUND* THIS THING YET, AND IT'S ALREADY STARTING TO FLOW OVER THE *TOP* OF MY BARRIER!

MY *MYSTICAL ENERGIES* HAVE PRECIOUS LITTLE EFFECT UPON IT!

EASY, MA'AM, YOU'LL BE SAFE ON TOP OF THIS *WALL*.

HOPELESS.

WHAT *IS* THIS EFFLUVIA?

PERHAPS WARLOCK WAS RIGHT IN SAYING THE UNIVERSE WAS IN *GREAT JEOPARDY*.

I MUST PREVENT THIS SLIME FROM REACHING THE *DWELLING* HE IS IN!

MADNESS! ABSOLUTE *MADNESS!*

THESE *HURRICANE WINDS* WE'RE WHIPPING UP AREN'T DOING MUCH GOOD!

IF WE CAN SLOW THE CREEPING SLIME EVEN A *BIT*, WHIZZER, WE'LL BE BUYING TIME FOR SOME *POOR SHMOES!*

CONRAD'S TV AND APPLIANCES

JACK! THERE'S GREAT *PSYCHIC CLAMOR* IN MANHATTAN!

I'M *ON* IT, MISTRESS!

DIG A *DEEP TRENCH* FOR THIS GLOP TO DROP INTO!

GOD, IT FEELS GREAT TO *MOVE* AGAIN--TO LET LOOSE THE *ZERO-ENERGY* THAT'S BEEN CLOGGED UP INSIDE ME!

LOOK OUT, WORLD--THE *JACK OF HEARTS* IS BACK!

THE EONVERSE...

HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

IS IT MY IMAGINATION OR IS THE STUFF OF EON'S BODY GETTING A LITTLE SPARSE HERE?

COULD HIS MATTER BE DECAYING THIS FAST OR--

HOLY SPUMONI! IT LOOKS LIKE SLUDGE SWIRLING DOWN A DRAIN!

BUT WHERE'S EON'S BODY GOING TO? WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DRAINHOLE?

HELP ME...I'M FRIGHTENED! I'M NOT GOING TO...!

NO TIME TO PLAY PLUMBER. GOT TO HOME IN ON THAT MENTAL VOICE!

HEY, VOICE. I'M COMING. WHERE ARE YOU? SPEAK TO ME.

VOICE...?

I'M RIGHT AHEAD OF YOU! PLEASE HURRY...!

IF YOU DO NOT UNTETHER ME FROM MY MOTHER'S BODY, I WILL NOT SURVIVE THE PASSAGE OUT OF THIS SPACE!

"MOTHER'S BODY"?

IS...IS THIS YOU?

YES.

IT LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF EGG. IS IT SUPPOSED TO BE IN HERE? WHAT'S INSIDE IT?

THUD

NGUHH!

FORGOT ABOUT ME, DIDN'T YOU?

MARVEL BOY...?

YOU MAY HAVE BEEN THE *LAST GUY* TO WEAR THESE BANDS FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME BEFORE *I* DID--

--BUT YOU NEVER WERE ONE OF *EON'S CHOSEN!*

SO *BUZZ OFF* BEFORE I GET *REALLY MAD!*

WHOUUFF!

SO...YOU'RE *EON'S OFFSPRING* OR SOMETHING?

I AM.

AND YOU WANT ME TO *SEPARATE* YOU FROM...?

FROM *EON'S WOMB.*

AND TAKE YOU *OUT* OF HERE?

PROTECT ME WITH YOUR POWER.

AND MINUTES LATER...

WHAT?!? THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DRAINHOLE EON WAS SWIRLING THROUGH--WAS MY *OFFICE?!?*

THAT BLASTED *THANOS!* *HE* DID THIS!

LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO HAVE TO--*NNNGH!*--PLUG UP THE PASSAGEWAY WITH THE *DADDY OF ALL DOORS!*

SQWUMP

OKAY, LITTLE EGG. WE'RE ***SAFE*** AND ***SOUND*** FOR THE TIME BEING. NOW LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT...EON'S YOUR ***MOTHER--?***

NO TIME TO SPEAK.

I'VE ***HELD BACK*** AS LONG AS I CAN.

I'M ABOUT TO HATCH.

DID I DO THE ***RIGHT THING*** BRINGING THIS THING HERE?

HOW DO I ***KNOW*** IT'S EON'S CHILD AND NOT SOMETHING ELSE ***THANOS*** CREATED...?

HELLO, PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE. I'M ***EPOCH***, EON'S SUCCESSOR.

A BABY EON...!

DUE TO THANOS'S RENDING OF MY ***MOTHER'S BODY***, I COULD NOT HATCH ***NATURALLY*** AS I WAS MEANT TO.

HAD I NOT BEEN REMOVED FROM THE ***WOMB***, I WOULD HAVE BEEN ***STILLBORN***.

SO... I JUST PERFORMED A ***CAESARIAN SECTION*** ON AN ALIEN LIFE FORM!

I OWE YOU MY LIFE, QUASAR.

EON'S CONTINUITY SHALL ***ENDURE*** THANKS TO YOU.

THAT'S... ***WONDERFUL!***

BUT THERE IS STILL **MORE** TO BE DONE, MY PROTECTOR. THERE ARE **SEVENTEEN** OTHER NEXUS POINTS IN THE UNIVERSE WHERE MOTHER'S BODY IS STILL FLOODING THROUGH. THEY MUST BE **SEALED.**

THEN THE REMAINS OF **MOTHER'S BODY,** NOW SEVERED FROM THE ANIMATING FORCE OF HER **MAIN CORPUS,** MUST BE GATHERED AND **CREMATED,** LEST THEY COMBINE WITH EARTHLY BACTERIA TO **PUTREFICATION.**

SOME OF YOUR WORLD'S FELLOW SUPER-BEINGS ARE **ASSISTING** IN THIS EVEN AS WE CONVERSE, BUT THEY WILL REQUIRE **YOUR HELP.**

AND FINALLY, THERE IS THE MATTER OF **THANOS.** IT IS STILL TOO SOON AFTER MY **BIRTH TRAUMA** FOR ME TO BE ABLE TO FULLY DETERMINE THE **EXTENT** OF HIS MALEFIC DOINGS...

...BUT I SHALL PUT MY **NASCENT INTELLECT** TO THAT TASK AT ONCE. **THIS** MUCH I ALREADY SENSE...THAT WHILE YOU WILL HAVE A **SPECIFIC ROLE** TO PLAY IN THE VANQUISHING OF THIS MAD GOD--

--IT WILL BE **OTHERS** WHO DIRECTLY BRING HIM DOWN. NOT EVEN THE PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE HAS TO PLAY A KEY ROLE IN **EVERY** COSMIC CRISIS.

HOW MUCH OF EON'S MEMORY SURVIVES IN YOU, EPOCH?

POTENTIALLY ALL.

IT WILL TAKE TIME TO ACQUIRE, HOWEVER.

I DO RECALL A MESSAGE MOTHER WISHED TO GIVE YOU:

"QUASAR, IF YOU ARE HEARING THIS, I AM DEAD.

"BUT DO NOT THINK THE UNIVERSE POORER FOR IT. I HAVE PERFECT CONFIDENCE THAT MY DAUGHTER WILL SOON BE ABLE TO TAKE MY PLACE IN THE COSMIC SCHEME OF THINGS.

"SHE WILL NEED YOUR HELP, HOWEVER. WHEREAS I WAS YOUR MENTOR, YOU WILL HAVE TO BE HERS. YOU WILL HAVE TO HELP HER ALONG AS SHE GROWS INTO OMNISCIENCE.

"I MUST TAKE MY LEAVE OF YOU NOW FOREVER, BUT I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT YOU HAVE FULFILLED ALL OF MY CONSIDERABLE EXPECTATIONS OF YOU--

"--AND HAVE MADE ME PROUD. TRULY YOU ARE THE GREATEST OF MY CHAMPIONS.

"FROM THIS MOMENT ONWARD, YOUR DESTINY AS PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE IS YOUR OWN TO CHART. I KNOW YOU WILL BE UP TO IT. FAREWELL, QUASAR."

GOODBYE, EON...

...AND THANKS FOR EVERYTHING.

NEXT: LIFE BEYOND THE GAUNTLET!

MARVEL® COMICS

32 AUG

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

DOCTOR DOOM, THE SILVER SURFER™ AND ADAM WARLOCK™ FEATURED IN:

DR. STRANGE®

SORCERER SUPREME™

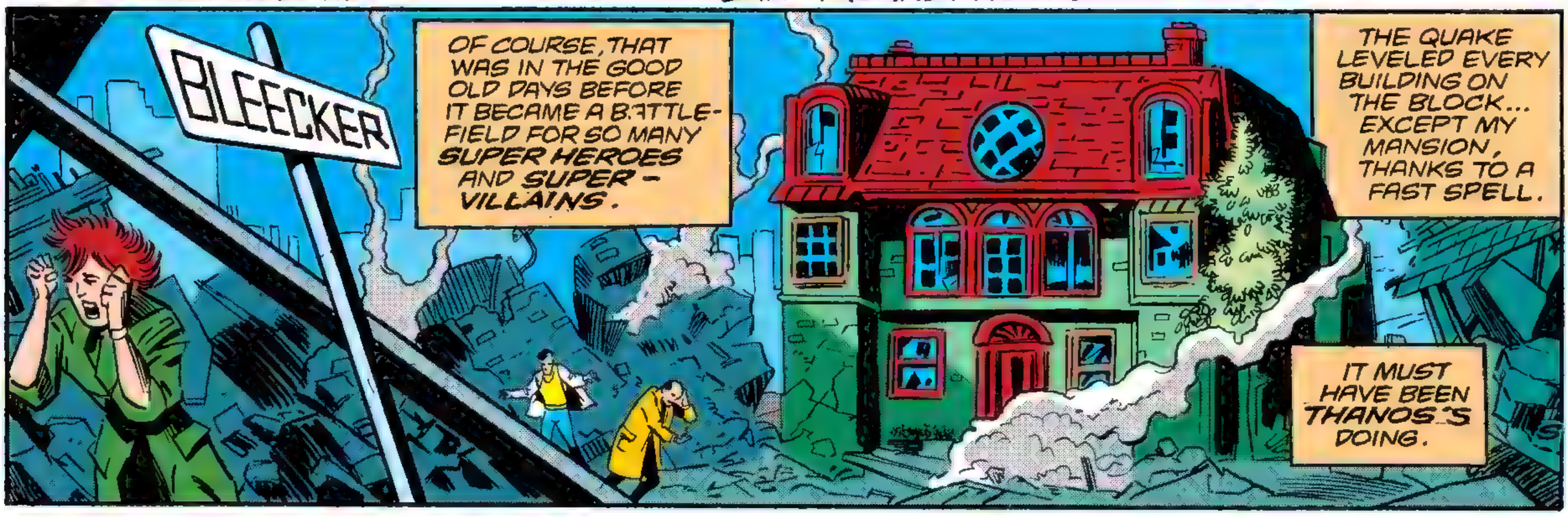
AN INFINITY GAUNTLET™ CROSSOVER

AGAINST THE MENACE OF THE SILVER DAGGER!

MARRINAN + McKENNA '91

HE WAS ONCE A SURGEON—AN ARROGANT MAN-OF-THE-WORLD SEDUCED BY MATERIAL WEALTH. THEN, WHEN A TRAGIC ACCIDENT DEPRIVED HIM OF HIS SURGICAL SKILLS, STEPHEN STRANGE DISCOVERED A SEPARATE REALITY, A HIGHER PLANE OF OCCULT FORCES IN ETERNAL CONFLICT. VOWING TO BE EARTH'S FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST MAGICAL MENACE, THE ERSTWHILE PHYSICIAN BECAME EARTH'S FOREMOST MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS!

MANHATTAN ISLAND USED TO BE CONSIDERED EARTHQUAKE PROOF.



...DON'T YOU AGREE, DR. STRANGE?

WHAT? I'M SORRY.

I MUST HAVE BEEN DAY-DREAMING.

THE SILVER SURFER MERELY COMMENTED THAT THE EARTHQUAKE MUST HAVE BEEN OF AT LEAST 8.2 MAGNITUDE.

LET NEW YORK'S MORE PEDESTRIAN SUPER-BEINGS CONCERN THEMSELVES WITH SEISMIC MEASUREMENT--AND WITH THE OBVIOUS MISERY THE QUAKE HAS CAUSED THE MASSES.

WE HAVE MORE IMPORTANT MATTERS TO CONSIDER--

--SUCH AS, WHO IS BEST SUITED TO LEAD OUR LITTLE CRUSADE AGAINST THANOS OF TITAN!

AND WE ALL KNOW FOR WHOM THE DICTATOR FROM LATVERIA CASTS HIS VOTE, EH, TROLL?

PIP! I HAVE TOLD YOU--THE MASTER DOES NOT ALLOW SMOKING IN HIS DOMICILE.

SURE, SURE...

BUT, I'M ASHAMED TO SAY, AT THIS MOMENT IT'S LESS THE RECENT DISASTER THAT PREYS UPON MY MIND...

...THAN THE LITTLE SCENE WHICH PLAYED ITSELF OUT HERE NOT LONG BEFORE THE SURFER CRASHED THROUGH MY WINDOW...*

YOU--!?

YES, ME, STEPHEN STRANGE!

AND, JUST IN CASE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN MY NAME--IT'S CLEA!

* i.e. RIGHT AFTER DOC #30. --MIKE

WHERE DO YOU GET OFF--PUTTING ME TO SLEEP WITH THAT MORPHEUS SPELL--SO YOU CAN RUN AWAY AND PLAY HERO WITH RINTRAH AND TOPAZ?*

I'M A SORCERESS--NOT SOME CHILD YOU HAVE TO TUCK INTO BED!

* BACK IN DOC #26. --M.

I WAS ONLY TRYING TO KEEP YOU OUT OF DANGER, CLEA.

YOU'D JUST LOST YOUR DARK-DIMENSION THRONE TO DORMAMMU --THEN TO UMAR AND MORDO--

--AND WITH IT, THE MANTLE OF POWER THAT GLOWED AROUND YOUR HEAD--!

MY "PRETTY LITTLE" HEAD, DON'T YOU MEAN?

NOW LISTEN, CLEA...

NO!
YOU LISTEN!
I'M NOT YOUR *DISCIPLE* ANY LONGER--
THIS WORLD DOESN'T EVEN ACKNOWLEDGE ME AS YOUR *WIFE*--
UNNNH!
--AND NOW I WANT TO TAKE SOME TIME TO THINK ABOUT WHETHER I WANT TO BE *ANYTHING* TO YOU, EVER AGAIN!
WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
WHEN I GET BACK-- *MAYBE* I'LL TELL YOU WHERE I'VE *BEEN!*
GOOD-BYE!
I HAD THAT COMING, I GUESS.
ANYWAY, I WAS GIVING HER A FEW HOURS TO COOL OFF--
--WHEN THE *SURFER* DROPPED BACK INTO MY LIFE, *MINUS* HIS POWER COSMIC.
4
WHEN *HALF THE PEOPLE ON EARTH* WERE SUDDENLY *OBLITERATED* A BIT LATER-- MAYBE HALF THE HUMANOID BEINGS IN THIS *UNIVERSE*-- HE COLLAPSED AGAIN--
--AND IT TOOK A JOURNEY INTO *NORRIN RADD'S MIND* TO GIVE HIM THE INCENTIVE TO GO ON *FIGHTING* THANOS.
ALL THAT SERVED TO TAKE MY MIND OFF *CLEA*-- FOR A WHILE.
BUT I JUST REALIZED--I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF *SHE'S* BEEN WIPED OUT OF EXISTENCE--LIKE *WONG* AND *IMEI*-- LIKE *TOPAZ*--LIKE--
WARLOCK?
YES, DR. STRANGE?
THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE GOT TO DO--OUTSIDE. I'LL RETURN IN A FEW MINUTES.
NO, MAGE.
YOU *MUST NOT* LEAVE-- NOT AT THIS CRUCIAL JUNCTURE!

WHEN THE MOMENT FOR *ACTION* COMES-- IT WILL COME LIKE *LIGHTNING IN THE NIGHT.*

UNTIL THEN, WE MUST STAND *READY*-- AND AT *FULL STRENGTH.*

IF YOU *WISH* TO GO, MAGICIAN-- *GO!*

NO, SURFER. ADAM WARLOCK IS RIGHT.

I'LL STAY.

I GUESS I'M A *SORCERER SUPREME* BEFORE I'M... A *MAN.*

IF THAT IS SETTLED, MAY I FINISH MY DRINK IN PEACE?

TROLL-- FOR THE FINAL TIME--!

ALL *RIGHT,* ALREADY!

I'M *OUTTA* HERE!

YOU *DO*-GOODER TYPES CAN STAND AROUND SAVING YOURSELVES FOR THE *GREATER GLORY...*

OL' *PIP'S* GONNA GO HAVE HIMSELF A *SMOKE!*

AH! THAT'S MORE *LIKE* IT!

SOON AS MY BUDDY *WARLOCK* GETS THE MULTIVERSE STRAIGHTENED OUT--

--FIRST THING I'M DOIN' IS MAKING CERTAIN HE PUTS IN A *SMOKING SECTION.*

DO YOU NOT KNOW HOW *HAZARDOUS* TOBACCO PRODUCTS CAN BE TO YOUR *HEALTH?*

YOU AGAIN!?

YOU *FITNESS FASCISTS* CAN GET ON A GUY'S *NERVES* AFTER A WHILE.

I CLEARED OUT OF YOUR BOSSMAN'S PAD. *NOW* WHAT?

I WAS *NOT* FOLLOWING YOU, TROLL.

NO? THEN WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' LEAVING THE ROOM WITHOUT THE *MAWSTER'S PERMISSION*?

SINCE *HE* CANNOT GO IN SEARCH OF HIS SOULMATE, *CLEA*...

...I CAME FORTH TO SEEK HER OUT, ON HIS BEHALF.

IF THERE IS ONE THING I HAVE LEARNED IN MY SOJOURN ON EARTH AS HIS DISCIPLE-- IT IS THAT I AM EMINENTLY *DIS-PENSABLE*.

NOW, IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME...

HOLD UP, COW-BOY!

I KINDA FEEL LIKE A WALK MYSELF.

BOY! THAT QUAKE SURE SET *URBAN RENEWAL* BACK A FEW DECADES, DIDN'T IT?

IT IS INDEED A *TRAGEDY*--

--PARTICULARLY COMING, AS IT DID, HARD UPON THE HOOVES OF THE *MASS DIS-APPEARINGS*.

BUT NOW--BEFORE WE GO ANY FURTHER-- I NEARLY FORGOT--

HEY! WHAT--?

A SIMPLE *WEAVE-SPELL*...

...TO MAKE US APPEAR AS *NORMAL HUMAN BEINGS* TO THE CURIOUS EYE.

SPEAK FOR YOUR-SELF.

I COULD'VE PASSED.

PERHAPS.

LISTEN! IT APPEARS THE DISASTER HAS BROUGHT OUT ONE OF THE IMPROMPTU *SERMONIZERS* OF WASHING-TON SQUARE PARK...

YES, MY FRIENDS-- WE ARE SINNERS-- SINNERS, EVERY MAN JACK OF US--

--BUT IT IS NOT FOR OUR OWN SINS THAT THE LORD HAS BROUGHT THIS DEVASTATION DOWN UPON OUR HEADS!

RATHER, IT IS BECAUSE WE HAVE ALLOWED BLASPHEMERS--IDOLATORS--AYE, EVEN SORCERERS TO RISE UP IN OUR MIDST!

WHAT'S WRONG, BIG BOY?

I... KNOW THAT MAN!

YES, I SAID "SORCERERS"--PURVEYORS OF BLACK MAGIC, WHOSE VERY EXISTENCE IS AN OFFENSE UNTO GOD!

HE HAS SMITED US, FOR THE SINS OF THESE PROFANE MAGICIANS--

--THE MOST INFAMOUS OF WHOM LIVES AND WORKS HIS UNHOLY WONDERS NEAR THIS VERY PARK!

HIS NAME IS--DR. STRANGE!

STRANGE? I SAW HIM ON THAT "HOUR THIRTEEN" SHOW! HE'S A FAKE!

THAT AIN'T WHAT THAT BLESSING BABE SAYS IN HER BOOK ABOUT HIM!

YEAH! MAYBE THIS SIDEWALK PREACHER KNOWS SOMETHING!

AND I KNOW THAT HE IS A CRIMINAL AND A LIAR NAMED ISAIAH CURWEN--

--ALSO KNOWN AS SILVER DAGGER!

HEY--DON'T GET THIS GUY RILED, OKAY?

IN CASE YOU DIDN'T NOTICE, THOSE AIN'T B-B GUNS HIS ENTOURAGE IS SPORTIN'!

BEFORE YOU, SINNERS, STANDS THE LIVING PROOF OF MY ACCUSATIONS--

--THE UNHOLY DISCIPLE OF THE MAGICIAN!

WHAT? HOW DID YOU KNOW--?

QUIET, JERK! DAGGER'S TALKING!

KRAK

HEY!

THAT JERK HAPPENS TO BE A PAL OF MINE!

YEEOWW!

SEE, RINNY-TIN-TIN? TOBACCO IS SO GOOD FOR SOMETHING!

RINNY--?!

IT IS YOU WHO ARE EVIL, CURWEN--NOT THE ONE YOU ACCUSE!

STEPHEN STRANGE IS A GOOD MAN--AND HE IS NO BLACK MAGICIAN!

RELEASE HIM, MEN!

LET HIM SHOW HIMSELF FOR THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE HE TRULY IS!

THAT IS BETTER! NOW, WHAT EVIDENCE DO YOU HAVE THAT DR. STRANGE IS ANYTHING BUT A SIMPLE--

EH? I FEEL--

OH, NO...

I SUPPOSE THIS MEANS MY SECRET IS OUT.

HE'S A *DEVIL!* HE'S EVEN GOT *HORNS!*

YEAH-- AND LOOK AT THE LITTLE GUY *WITH* HIM!

YOUR SPELLS DON'T *WEAR* VERY WELL, DO THEY, RINNY?

COME, LITTLE TROLL! FROM WHAT I READ OF ISAIAH CURWEN IN THE MASTER'S *FILES--*

--WE MUST *STRIKE NOW,* OR HE WILL HOUND US TO OUR *DEATHS!*

AND YOU WILL PLEASE *CEASE* CALLING ME *"RINNY"!*

YOU *GOT* IT, BULLWINKLE!

YOU SEE, SINNERS? THUS DO THE ENEMIES OF THE LORD *RE-VEAL* THEMSELVES!

YES, I HAVE INDEED BEEN CALLED BY THE NAME *"SILVER DAGGER"*-- BUT NOT ONLY FOR THE *BLADE* UPON MY HIP.

BE-NEATH THIS *EYE-PATCH* LIES--

--ANOTHER *"SILVER DAGGER"* WITH WHICH TO BUFFET *EVIL ONES!*

AARRRR

HE'S *HURTING,* YOU LOUSY--

I'LL SPARE YOU THE *TROUBLE...*

THE DEVIL'S BROOD CARE FOR THEIR *OWN,* DO THEY?

SHOOT HIM, BEFORE WE MARCH ON TO *STRANGE'S* MAN-SION!

YOU--!?

THIS IS *MY* NEIGHBORHOOD, FANATIC.

DID YOU REALLY THINK I WOULDN'T TAKE PAINS TO KEEP IT *CLEAN* OF FILTH LIKE YOU?

I'M FRANKLY SURPRISED YOU WOULD *REVEAL* YOURSELF LIKE THIS, STRANGE.

STILL, YOU *HAVE* SOMETHING OF MINE, STRANGE--

--AND I'VE COME TO TAKE IT *BACK!*

YOU MEAN-- YOUR *LEFT EYE.*

YES, I STILL HAVE IT--REPLACING THE ONE DESTROYED BY THE DEMON *GHASZASZAH NYIRH!**

NICE OF YOU TO WORRY ABOUT MY BLOWING WHAT LITTLE IS LEFT OF MY *COVER...*

*STRANGE TALES (2ND SERIES) #10.--MIKE

--BUT THERE'S NOBODY INSIDE THE *MYSTIC DOME* I'VE CREATED EXCEPT *US!*

AS FOR THIS *EYE*-- YOU MATERIALIZED IT IN PLACE OF THE ONE I'D LOST, AS I LEFT THE DIMENSION OF *AGAMOTTO.**

HE TOLD ME THAT, LATER, THROUGH HIS CRYSTAL *ORB.*

WHAT MAKES YOU WANT IT BACK AT *THIS* LATE DATE?

*DOC #7. --M.

YOU AND THAT FOOL OF AN ENTITY *AGAMOTTO*-- "SORCERER SUPREME" AND "ALL-SEEING," INDEED!

IF YOU TRULY BELIEVE I PLUCKED OUT AN EYE AND MYSTICALLY IMPLANTED IT IN YOU JUST TO ATONE FOR A *SIN* OR TWO, YOU COULD *BOTH* USE NEW SOBRIQUETS.

MY *NEW* EYE, AMONG ITS OTHER POWERS, CAN SHOW YOU WHAT *REALLY* HAPPENED.

YES, I LET THE CATERPILLAR-GUISED AGAMOTTO THINK I'D ACTED OUT OF GUILT--SO HE WOULD PASS THAT "*INFORMATION*" ON TO *YOU*.

AFTER WHICH, I BIDED MY TIME...

"...UNTIL I COULD MAGICALLY MAKE MY *ESCAPE* FROM HIS UNHALLOWED SPHERE.

"RETURNING TO EARTH, I RENEWED MY *HOLY WAR* AGAINST THE FORCES OF THE *DEVIL*.

"I GATHERED A SMALL *ARMY*, AND LED THE MASSACRE OF A PACK OF CALIFORNIA *WEREWOLVES*.*

"LATER, THINKING *ME* TAINTED WITH LYCANTHROPIC BLOOD, MY MEN *TURNED* ON ME.

*MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #54-59.--MIKE

"SURELY, THESE VERY STALWARTS YOU SEE BEFORE YOU WOULD HAVE *SLAIN* ME THAT NIGHT...

"...IF I HAD INDEED LEFT AGAMOTTO'S REALM WITH AN *EMPTY SOCKET* WHERE MY LEFT EYE HAD ONCE BEEN.

"AS IT IS, ONCE I GAINED CONTROL OF MY PANIC, I EASILY BENT THEM TO MY *WILL*."

BUT--WHAT KIND OF EYE--DID YOU *STRIKE* ME WITH, DAGGER?

EASY, BULL-WINKLE...

WHAT KIND OF EYE?

NO MYSTERY THERE, RINTRAH.

IT CAN ONLY BE--*THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO!*

THE EYE OF--?

BUT, MASTER--*YOU* POSSESS THAT--IN THE *AMULET* AROUND YOUR NECK!

AH, BUT THERE WAS AN *EARLIER* AMULET--WHICH STRANGE WORE TILL HIS OWN MENTOR, THE *ANCIENT ONE*, GAVE HIM A *LATER* MODEL.*

THE OLD MAN RETURNED IT TO *AGA-MOTTO*--

*STRANGE TALES #127.--M.R.

--WHO CARELESSLY LEFT IT LYING AROUND WHERE I COULD FIND IT.

I ALWAYS *WONDERED* WHAT HAPPENED TO MY FIRST AMULET.

I SUPPOSE *NEXT* WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO LEARN WHICH OF THEM IS *STRONGER*.

I ALREADY KNOW THAT *MINE* IS--

--BECAUSE IT'S BACKED BY MY *WILL!*

STILL AS *FANATICAL* AS EVER,. AREN'T YOU, CURWEN?

LIAR! BLASPHEMER! I AM DOING THE *LORD'S WORK!*

I'LL BELIEVE *THAT* WHEN I SEE THE *WRITTEN WORK-ORDER*.

IF I WERE NOT *CHOSEN*, COULD I HAVE *HIDDEN* THIS EYE FROM AGAMOT-TO WITHIN THE *SOCKET* I HAD CONVENIENTLY CREATED?

NOW, I'LL USE IT TO GET MY *ORIGINAL* EYE BACK, AS WELL--AND KEEP AGAMOTTO'S AS MY *THIRD EYE!*

THE "*EYES*" HAVE IT, HUH?

FRANKLY, BULLWINKLE, I THINK IT'S TIME WE TOOK OUR FINGERS OUT!

INDEED!

IT'S *HAPPENING*, DAGGER--WHAT YOU SHOULD'VE *SUSPECTED* ALL ALONG!

MY EYE IS GETTING THE BEST OF *YOUR* EYE.

STILL-- I'M A MAN OF *TWO* SILVER DAGGERS NOW--

AGAMOTTO MUST HAVE *IMPROVED* ON HIS EARLIER ONE!

THIS COULD JUST BE IT.

IF I SWITCH EVEN AN IOTA OF CONCENTRATION FROM OUR BATTLE OF EYES TO DEAL WITH THE HURTLING DAGGER--!

AND YET-- IF I DON'T --!

--AND THE *ENCHANTMENTS* ON THIS ONE WILL SEND IT *RIGHT THROUGH* ANY MAGICAL AURA AROUND YOU!

DIE, SPAWN OF SATAN!

BY THE MOONS OF MUNNOPOR!

I MIGHT HAVE *KNOWN* IT WOULD BE *YOU* WHO PULLED MY FAT OUT OF THE FIRE!

CHARMING ANALOGIES YOU EARTHLINGS USE, MY LOVE.

YOUR DOME COULDN'T KEEP ME OUT--BUT NOW YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN.

DID YOU REALLY THINK I COULD STAY AWAY--NOT KNOWING IF YOU'D BEEN HURT IN THAT *EARTH-QUAKE?*

NEUTRAL-IZING THAT MAGICAL DAGGER TOOK A LOT OUT OF ME!

I CAN HANDLE IT FROM HERE.

CAN YOU?

CAN YOU OVERCOME THE *HATRED* WITHIN ME, BOTH FOR *YOU*--AND FOR THE *PERVERSE SORCERY* YOU REPRESENT?

I'VE *BOTTLED UP* MY HATRED--JUST AS I FORMERLY WORE A *CRYSTAL EYE* OVER THE ONE I STOLE FROM AGAMOTTO--

BUT TONIGHT IS THE NIGHT I *UN-LEASH* MY HATRED--*TOTALLY!*

YOU'VE *GOT* TO BEAT HIM, STEPHEN!

NOW, MORE THAN EVER, THE *EARTH* NEEDS YOU!

I NEED YOU!

I WANT MY *EYE* BACK, STRANGE!

GIVING IT TO YOU WAS ONLY A TEMPORARY PLOY--AND I *WANT IT BACK!*

YOU'VE ALREADY--GOT *TWO*--CURWEN!

--COME *HOGGOTH* OR *HIGH WATER!*

I'M--*KEEPING* IT--

CAN'T WE *HELP* YOUR BOSSMAN, NOW THAT WE'VE PUT THESE DUDES AWAY?

NO...

NOT EVEN THE *SORCERESS WHO LOVES HIM* CAN HELP HIM NOW!

STEPHEN-- THE *PLATFORM--*

--IT'S *SHATTERING* BENEATH YOUR FEET!

FALL, CURSE YOU!

IT WAS NOT TO BE *DEFEATED* BY SUCH AS *YOU* THAT I GAVE UP THE *PRIESTHOOD--*

--EVEN STUDIED THE *MAGIC* I LOATHED, SO I COULD FIGHT VERMIN LIKE YOU ON *YOUR OWN TERMS!*

THERE ARE *TOO MANY* LIKE YOU, DAGGER--

--PEOPLE MORE CONCERNED WITH WHAT A PERSON MAY BE ALLOWED TO *KNOW*--THAN WHAT HE MAY *DO* WITH THAT KNOW-LEDGE.

RELIGION DOESN'T *NEED* SELF-APPOINTED DEFENDERS LIKE YOU!

THE PLATFORM-- *COLLAPSED!*

DON'T WORRY. I WON'T LET YOU DROP.

I DON'T *WANT* YOUR HELP!

I JUST WANT MY *EYE--*

--AND YOUR *DEATH!*

AND YOU'RE GETTING-- *NEITHER!*

YOU'RE *FINISHED,* CURWEN-- *RIGHT NOW!*

A CAGE!

YOU'VE TURNED MY OWN SILVER RAYS--INTO A CAGE!

AND SUDDENLY--I'M BLIND IN THAT EYE AGAIN!

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?!?

I HAPPENED TO YOU, DAG--WADDA YOU THINK?

AGAMOTTO!?

I WAS WONDERING WHEN YOU'D DECIDE TO SHOW UP.

NOW, NOW, DOC--A LITTLE RESPECT FOR YOUR ELDERS, PLEASE.

I MIGHT'VE KNOWN YOU'D BE EXPECTING ME, THOUGH.

SO YOU FIGURED OUT I WAS MERELY TESTING CURWEN WHEN I ALLOWED HIM TO STUMBLE OVER MY EARLY-MODEL EYE.

WHAT? YOU LET ME--?!

JUST GIVING YOU A CHANCE TO SHAPE UP, DAG.

ALAS, YOU LIVED DOWN TO MY EXPECTATIONS.

NOW YOU'LL COME BACK WITH ME, SO WE CAN RENEW OUR STIMULATING PHILOSOPHICAL DEBATES.

HE'S ALL YOURS, AGAMOTTO.

THANKS FOR LETTING ME BE THE ONE TO BRING HIM DOWN, THOUGH.

NO! I'M DOING THE LORD'S WORK, I TELL YOU!

I'LL NEVER RETURN TO YOUR DIMENSION!

LIKE YOU'VE REALLY GOT A CHOICE, RIGHT?

NNNOOO

FALL BY AND SEE ME SOMETIME, DOC.

I'VE GOT SOME NEW FOOTAGE ON THE BIG BANG I'D LIKE TO SHOW YOU..

GOOD OLD AGAMOTTO...

HARD TO BELIEVE, SOMETIMES, THAT HE'S 1/3 OF THE IMMORTAL *VISHANTI*...

...AND THAT HE ONLY RESEMBLES A CATERPILLAR WHEN DEALING WITH SOMEONE STEEPED IN *ALICE IN WONDERLAND.*

STILL, JUST RIGHT NOW...

...I'VE GOT *OTHER* THINGS ON MY MIND.

CLEA-- THANKS FOR THE HELPING HAND.

LOOK, I'M SORRY I--

BEFORE YOU START, STEPHEN-- *I'M* THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE SORRY-- FOR LOSING MY TEMPER.

WELL, MAYBE *BOTH* OF US SHOULD APOLOGIZE, AT THAT.

FRANKLY, I THINK WE JUST *DID.*

I GUESS I *WAS* BEING PRETTY OVER-PROTECTIVE.

AFTER ALL, YOU'RE NOT A *CHILD*-- AS ANY FOOL COULD PLAINLY SEE.

TABLE THAT THOUGHT--FOR WHEN THIS HORRIBLE BUSINESS WITH *THANOS* IS DONE.

IF YOU KNOW *HE'S* BEHIND IT, THEN YOU KNOW ENOUGH TO HELP *ME* HELP *WARLOCK* DEAL WITH HIM.

DOES THIS MEAN NO MORE *SLEEP-SPELLS?*

I CAN THINK OF TOO MANY GOOD REASONS TO KEEP YOU *AWAKE.*

AIN'T LOVE *GRAND,* BULL-WINKLE?

HALF THE UNIVERSE BOUGHT THE FARM--

--AND THOSE TWO ARE PLAYING KISSY-FACE.

DR. STRANGE KNOWS FULL WELL THERE MUST SOON COME A *DEADLY RECKONING* WITH THANOS.

CAN WE BLAME HIM IF, JUST FOR A FLEETING MOMENT, HERE WITHIN THIS MYSTIC DOME--

--HE NEEDS DESPERATELY TO *FORGET* THAT FACT?

NEXT: AFTER *INFINITY GAUNTLET* #3--

TIME TO KILL!

A SIX ISSUE LIMITED SERIES FROM MARVEL COMICS

THE INFINITY GAUNTLET

THE END IS HERE

BY

JIM STARLIN GEORGE PEREZ & JOSEPH RUBINSTEIN

THE FINAL BATTLE BEGINS IN MAY

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THE SILVER SURFER®

∞ INFINITY GAUNTLET CROSSOVER

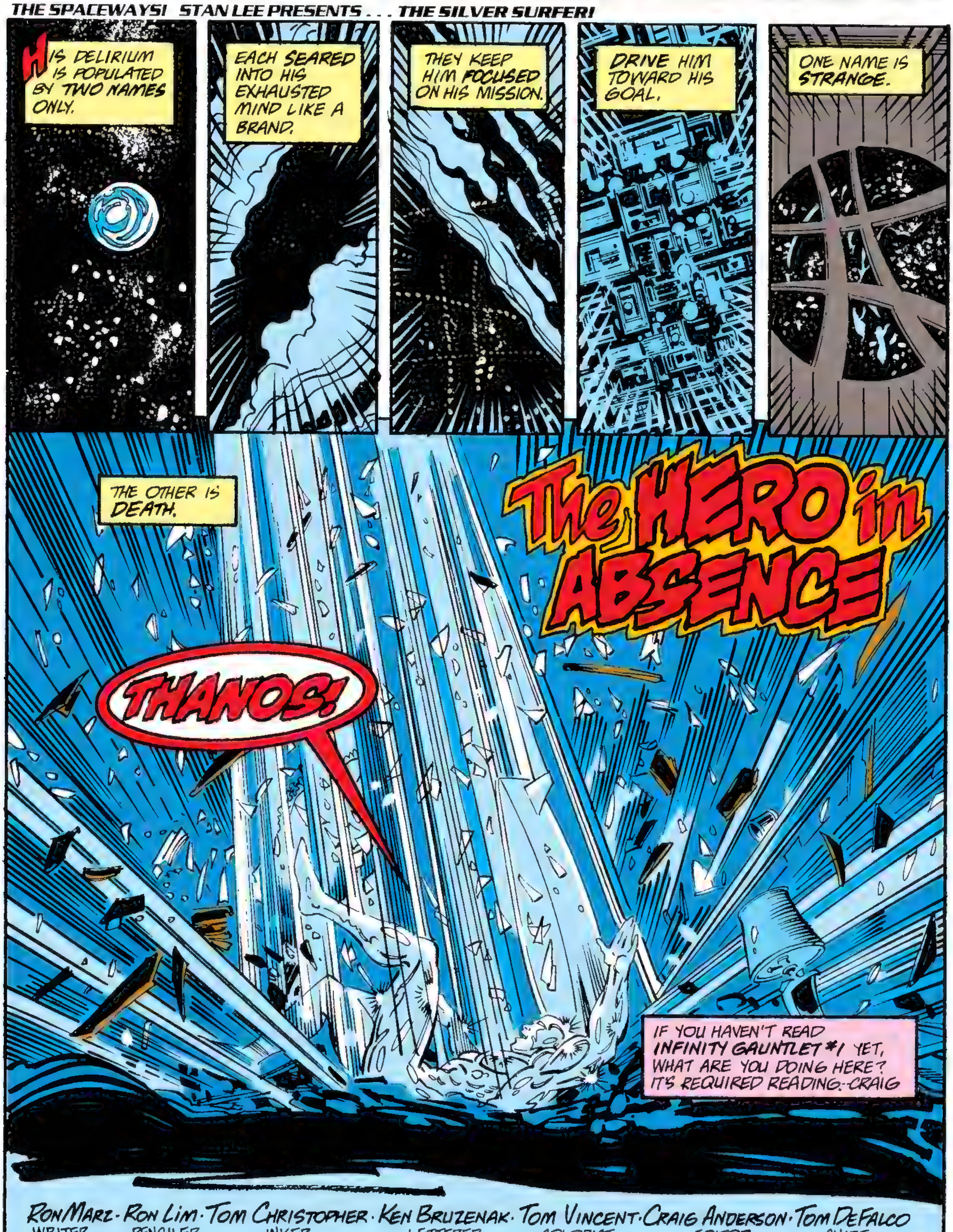
DRAX! STAY BACK!

FLAME-HAIR DIES!

50 YEARS OF CAPTAIN AMERICA
1941 – 1991

WHILE A UNIVERSE TREMBLES

TO SAVE HIS PLANET, **NORRIN RADD** SURRENDERED HIS FREEDOM TO BECOME HERALD TO THE WORLD-DEVOURING **GALACTUS.** COATED WITH GALACTIC GLAZE, GIVEN A SURFBOARD OBEYING HIS MENTAL COMMANDS, AND GRANTED THE POWER COSMIC, HE NOW SOARS THE UNIVERSE A SHINING SENTINEL OF THE SPACEWAYS! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . . **THE SILVER SURFER!**



RON MARZ · RON LIM · TOM CHRISTOPHER · KEN BRUZENAK · TOM VINCENT · CRAIG ANDERSON · TOM DEFALCO
WRITER PENCILER INKER LETTERER COLORIST EDITOR CHIEF

... STRANGE...
... STRANGE...
... STRANGE...

...MUST REACH STRANGE...

THE SILVER SURFER TEETERS AT THE BRINK OF **UNCONSCIOUSNESS**. HE HEARS HIMSELF WARN THE MYSTIC OF THE COMING DOOM.

"THANOS IS COMING!"

AND THEN REALITY **SLIPS AWAY**, REPLACED BY A TORTURED MIND'S **DARK VISION** OF THE FUTURE.

I WOULD NEVER HAVE IMAGINED THE *WONDERS* BURIED WITHIN SATURN'S SATELLITE, TITAN.

"BUT MEETING THE *ARCHITECT* OF THIS GRANDEUR IS EXPLANATION ENOUGH. EROS'S FATHER, *MENTOR*, IS TRULY A REMARKABLE MAN.

"*THANOS* THREATENS *ALL CREATION* ONCE MORE. MENTOR MUST HAVE BEEN *ANXIOUS* FOR THE SILVER SURFER TO ARRIVE WITH THE NEWS OF HIS *MAD SON'S* SCHEMES.

"THOUGH MY FORMER RIVAL WAS LONG OVERDUE, MENTOR CALMLY WELCOMED A STRANGER CALLED *FIRELORD* TO HIS HOME.

"IN FACT, *ALL* THOSE I MET WERE MOST GRACIOUS.

"EXCEPT THE *LARGE GREEN ONE*. THE DESTROYER SEEMED IMMEDIATELY SUSPICIOUS OF ME. THEY SAY HE'S NOT THE MAN HE *USED* TO BE.

"THEN AGAIN, *NEITHER* IS MENTOR.

"HE SIMPLY *FADED* FROM EXISTENCE BEFORE OUR EYES, LEAVING ONLY A *FEW FRAGMENTS* TO MARK HIS PASSING.

"I THINK THE DESTROYER'S *PEANUT BRAIN* WOULD LIKE TO BLAME *ME*. I AM, OF COURSE, A *STRANGER* TO HIM.

"THIS WORLD'S NEAR-OMNISCIENT COMPUTER, *ISSAC*, FIRST REPORTED THE DISAPPEARANCES WERE A TITAN-WIDE PHENOMENON.

"*HALF THE UNIVERSE* IS MISSING. AND IT'S NOT HARD TO GUESS *WHO'S RESPONSIBLE*.

"IT THEN *REVISED* ITS FINDINGS.

ONCE WE LEARNED THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION, WE DIDN'T EXPECT IT TO GET *WORSE*.

"AT LEAST NOT RIGHT AWAY.

"WE WERE *WRONG*.

"SO MENTOR AND EROS HAVE *VANISHED*, ALONG WITH HALF OF *EVERYBODY* IN THE UNIVERSE.

"AND, AS IF I DIDN'T HAVE *ENOUGH PROBLEMS*, THIS *MENACE* WITH THE BRAIN OF A FIVE-YEAR-OLD WANTS ME TO *EXPLAIN* WHERE HIS FRIENDS HAVE GONE.

"I DON'T HAVE A *CLUE*.

WE'LL *FIND* THEM, OKAY? JUST...JUST DON'T *GET UPSET*.

HE LAST THING I NEED IS FOR THIS MENTAL MIDGET TO GO *NUTS* ON ME.

Uh, I'M KIND OF... *IGNORANT* ABOUT THESE THINGS.

YOU KNOW HOW THIS WORKS?

NOPE. ONLY TV.

WE'LL HAVE TO *FIND* SOMEBODY WHO KNOWS HOW TO USE A COMPUTER.

WHERE OLD MAN AND NICE MAN GO?

FOLLOW ME AND MAYBE WE'LL *FIND OUT*.

CAN TELL *HE'S* NOT GOING TO BE MUCH HELP.

EVERYONE CAN'T BE GONE. WHERE WOULD THEY BE, DESTROYER?

DON'T KNOW.

THIS DOESN'T MAKE ME ANY MORE CONFIDENT. WHAT ABOUT YOU?

SCARED. WANT OLD MAN.

GOT KIND OF A ONE-TRACK MIND, DON'T YOU?

LET'S KEEP MOVING.

HOW SAD. TO BE WIDOWED EVEN BEFORE BEING MARRIED...

...STILL, MAYBE SHE CAN DIRECT US

WHY YOU MAKE OLD MAN GO AWAY?

ME?

I DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT.

YOU COME, OLD MAN AND NICE MAN GO AWAY. YOUR FAULT.

IT WAS THANOS, YOU MORON. HE MADE THE OLD MAN-- I MEAN MENTOR AND EROS DISAPPEAR.

WANT OLD MAN *NOW.*

WE DON'T HAVE *TIME* FOR THIS. WE--

DO YOU KNOW WHERE MY MOMMY AND DADDY ARE?

THEY LEFT ME, I GUESS, AND I CAN'T FIND THEM.

DO *YOU* KNOW WHERE THEY ARE?

MY NAME'S *TYCHO.*

PLEASE, I NEED HELP. PLEASE.

I, um, I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOUR PARENTS ARE, LITTLE BOY.

A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE... GONE RIGHT NOW.

WHERE'D THEY GO?

WE'RE TRYING TO *FIND OUT.* WE THINK THE *COMPUTER* CAN HELP US, BUT... WE DON'T KNOW HOW IT WORKS.

I CAN TAKE YOU TO *ISSAC* CENTRAL.

CARRY ME.

Er, uh, I DON'T... CHILDREN AREN'T.. Um... IT'S PROBABLY NOT...

PLEEEASE?

IF YOU CAN TAKE US TO A CONTROL ROOM, MAYBE WE CAN FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR PARENTS. MY NAME IS *FIRELORD.*

OH, ALL RIGHT.

ME NEXT?

YOU *REALLY* DON'T KNOW HOW TO WORK A COMPUTER?

WELL...NOT *THIS* KIND.

I NEVER MET ANYBODY WHO COULDN'T WORK A COMPUTER.

THANKS, KID.

HOW COME HE DOESN'T SAY MUCH?

TOO STUPID.

HEARD THAT.

GOOD.

THIS IS IT. THIS IS WHERE *ISAAC* LIVES.

ISAAC
CENTRAL

I *CAN* READ, YOU KNOW. DO YOU KNOW HOW TO GET *INSIDE*?

WANT...

I DON'T KNOW THE CODE.

GREAT.

WE'RE NO BETTER OFF THAN--

...IN-

SIDE!!

KRANG!

NOBODY HOME.

EVERYONE HERE COULDN'T HAVE DISAPPEARED BY CHANCE. THIS WAS PLANNED.

SOMEONE DIDN'T WANT US TO UNDERSTAND WHAT'S HAPPENED.

THANOS!

WITHOUT QUESTION. THIS HAS HIS FINGERPRINTS ALL OVER IT.

NO. THANOS ON TV.

WHAT?

BUT THE SURFER'S DUE *HERE*. DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS, *DESTROYER*?

DON'T... *REMEMBER* NOW.

OH, *GOOD*. I WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO *SURPRISE US* WITH ANYTHING USEFUL.

THAT'S NOT HAPPENING *NOW*. IT'S A *TAPE* RECORDED BY A TELESCOPE POINTED AT EARTH'S MOON.

THOSE THINGS HAPPENED A *FEW HOURS* AGO.

CAN YOU *REPLAY* THE WHOLE TAPE?

SURE, I JUST HAVE TO *ACCESS* IT.

"THAT'S *ALMOST* THE BEGINNING. WHO ARE THEY?"

THE FELLOW BEING *ATTACKED* IS THE *SILVER SURFER.* THAT *GRAY BRUTE* MUST BE *THANOS.*

"OBVIOUSLY THE SURFER NEVER ARRIVED AT TITAN, BECAUSE HE SAW HIS CHANCE TO *ENGAGE* THANOS.

0235

"WHY ARE THEY FIGHTING?"

THANOS IS SOMEHOW *RESPONSIBLE* FOR ALL THE DISAPPEARANCES, *INCLUDING* YOUR PARENTS.

0436

"THANOS EVIL. MUST BE DESTROYED."

HY ISN'T THERE ANY *SOUND?*"

"THIS IS A *VIDEO* TAPE TAKEN BY A TELESCOPE, THERE *IS* NO SOUNDTRACK."

H."

0626

"WHAT COULD HE BE *DOING.?*"

"WHY SURFER DON'T *FIGHT?*"

0636

DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY HE JUST *LIES* THERE."

"THANOS IN SURFER'S *HEAD*."

0996

HAT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN, *"IN HIS HEAD"?*

"HOW COULD THANOS *DO* THAT, DESTROYER?

"*DESTROYER?*"

"HEY, *LOOK!*

1202

HAT'S MORE LIKE IT. PERHAPS OUR BATTLE IS *WON* BEFORE IT'S *STARTED.*

"NOW, IF WE CAN *FIND* THE SURFER--

1317

"*INCREDIBLE.* THANOS MUST BE *MORE FORMIDABLE* THAN I HAVE BEEN LED TO BELIEVE.

"DESTROYER, YOU *MUST* TRY TO REMEMBER.

"CAN YOU *HEAR ME?*"

1377

"WHAT'S *WRONG* WITH HIM? WHY DOESN'T HE *ANSWER* YOU?

DON'T KNOW. HE JUST STARTED *STARING* OFF INTO SPACE.

"...IN...FIN...ITY..."

1550

"THE SURFER'S *BLOWING UP* THAT BAD MAN."

T SEEMS THE SURFER'S A WARRIOR TO BE *RECKONED WITH,* WHATEVER MY *PERSONAL* DEALINGS WITH HIM HAVE BEEN.

"THANOS APPEARS QUITE *DEAD.* CAN YOU LOCATE THE SURFER *NOW?*"

1777

"HE'S ON EARTH, BUT ISAAC CAN'T REALLY PINPOINT HIM. THERE'S TOO MUCH INTERFERENCE."

"THEN THAT'S WHERE WE'RE GOING."

YOU'VE HELPED US A GREAT DEAL, TYCHO.

AW, THAT'S OKAY.

INFINITY.

WHAT'S THAT MEAN?

INFINITY GAUNTLET.

THANOS.

THANOS NOT DEAD.

HAS INFINITY GAUNTLET.

IS GOD.

YOUR MIND REALLY IS GONE.

WE JUST SAW THE SURFER DESTROY THANOS.

"FIREHEAD THINKS DESTROYER STUPID. MAKES FUN OF DESTROYER."

AND WHAT'S THIS INFINITY GAUNTLET?

"NOW DESTROYER REMEMBERS. THANOS WILL KILL EVERYONE."

THE BATTLE'S OVER ALREADY. THANOS IS DEAD

"FIREHEAD WON'T LISTEN TO DESTROYER."

WE'LL GO TO EARTH AND FIND THE SURFER!

"FIREHEAD HATES DESTROYER!"

"AND DESTROYER HATES FIREHEAD!

ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I THINK I'VE GOT A PROBLEM HERE.

"THE BIG GUY JUST LOST IT!"

"KILL FIREHEAD!"

NO

CRASH!

HE PACKS A WALLOP FOR A GUY WITH NO BRAINS."

...OOOHHH...

FIREHEAD NOT MAKE FUN OF DESTROYER NO MORE!

NO ONE LAUGH AT DESTROYER!

WHUMP!

NOT...

...EVER...

...AGAIN!

SO WHO'S LAUGHING?!

YOU'RE TOO HEAVY TO BE FUNNY.

THIS IS *FUN* BUT I CAN'T *PLAY* ANYMORE.

LET'S CALL IT *QUITS*, OKAY?

SO OFF YOU GO.

SHUT UP, FIREHEAD!

WHUUFF!

YOU'RE NOT THE MOST *REASONABLE* OPPONENT.

FIREHEAD TALK TOO MUCH.

KRANG!

I HOPE NOBODY *SEES* THIS.

NOW.

LET'S *DISCUSS* THIS, SHALL WE?

NO!

WR-WR-WRENCH

ALL RIGHT, FINE.

NO MORE MISTER NICE GUY!

STOP!

DON'T HURT EACH OTHER!

FWOOSH

HUH?

WHO SAID-?

WHOMP!

SQUASH FIREHEAD!

SQUASH FIREHEAD LIKE BUG!

NO!

THE BOY'S UP THERE!

TYCHO'S ON THE STATUE!

PLEASE DON'T DROP ME, MISTER.

...auhhh...

...huuh-- ahuh...

WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?

IS HE HURT?

I THINK HE'S BEEN HURT *PRETTY BAD.*

DESTROYER... SORRY...

...GOT...BAD *HEAD* NOW...

...DON'T WORK RIGHT...

"REMEMBER... USED TO BE... BETTER THAN NOW.

"SMART. GOOD.

"THEN GOT KILLED.

"BY DAUGHTER.

"SLEPT LONG TIME. SOMEBODY WOKE ME UP.

"BUT... NOT LIKE... USED TO BE. DIFFERENT.

"THANOS ALIVE AGAIN. WANT TO KILL THANOS.

"THANOS TOO STRONG.

"DESTROYER TOO WEAK."

DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHY DESTROYER DIFFERENT NOW?

WHO DID THIS? WHY?

I... DON'T KNOW.

I'M SORRY.

I HOPE WE CAN FIND SOME ANSWERS, BUT WE CAN'T DO IT HERE.

WE HAVE TO GO TO EARTH.

SURFER ON EARTH.

WE'LL *TRACK HIM DOWN* AND FIND OUT *WHAT'S HAPPENING.*

THANOS NOT DEAD. *I KNOW.*

I CAN ONLY *HOPE* YOU'RE WRONG.

YOU HAVE TO STAY HERE. IT'LL PROBABLY BE *DANGEROUS* WHERE WE'RE GOING.

I DON'T *CARE.* MY *PARENTS* ARE GONE AND I LIKE *YOU.*

PLEASE?

NO. SOMEONE *HERE* WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU.

I WANT TO GO *WITH* YOU.

WILL SOMEONE *SEE AFTER* THIS BOY?

HERE.

OUR *OWN* SON HAS *DISAPPEARED.* WE HAVE ROOM FOR HIM.

YOU *HELPED* US A LOT, TYCHO. I'LL *BE BACK* AFTER THIS IS *OVER.*

LET'S GET *MOVING,* DESTROYER.

UM, HOW DO WE *GET OUT OF HERE,* ANYWAY?

I WISH I KNEW *MORE* OF WHAT WE'RE *HEADING INTO.*

"MY *OWN EYES* TOLD ME THANOS HAD BEEN *OBLITERATED.*

"THE DESTROYER SEEMS *CONVINCED* HE STILL LIVES.

"I *SHOULD* DOUBT MY COMPANION. BUT HOWEVER *ADDLED* HIS BRAIN MAY BE, I CAN'T QUITE *IGNORE* THE DESTROYER'S WARNING.

"WHAT IF THE *MAD TITAN IS* SOMEHOW ALIVE?

"WHAT *CHANCE* WOULD TWO *FORMER HERALDS* OF GALACTUS AND ONE *OVERGROWN HALF-WIT* HAVE AGAINST HIM?

"FROM ALL REPORTS, YOUR *FIRST* MISTAKE IS YOUR *LAST* WHEN DEALING WITH THANOS."

WHERE DID--?

EARTH.

AVENGERS HEADQUARTERS.

ANY LUCK YET?

PLEASE... THERE'S A GREAT DEAL OF DISRUPTION STEMMING FROM THANOS'S USE OF THE INFINITY GAUNTLET.

FINDING SOMEONE OUTSIDE THE CONFINES OF EARTH ISN'T... AH, THERE.

STILL NO SIGN OF MENTOR OR EROS.

...BUT I HAVE THE OTHER TWO.

I BELIEVE THEY'RE IN NEED OF SOME DEBRIEFING, SURFER.

THEY WON'T LIKE WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO HEAR.

GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT?

HAVE A NICE TRIP?

OH, I JUST COULDN'T RESIST.

NEXT WEEK:

INFINITY GAUNTLET #2

NEXT ISSUE:

(IN JUST TWO WEEKS)

CLUMSY FOULUP!

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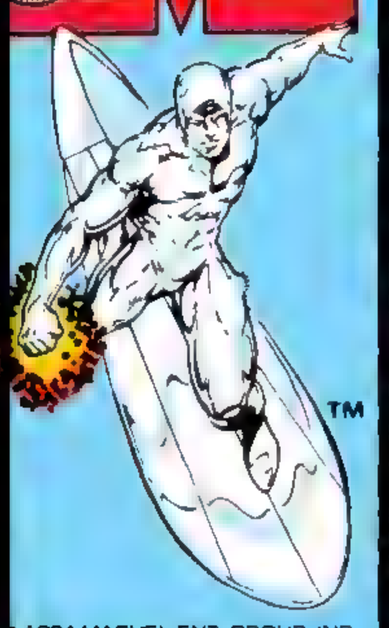

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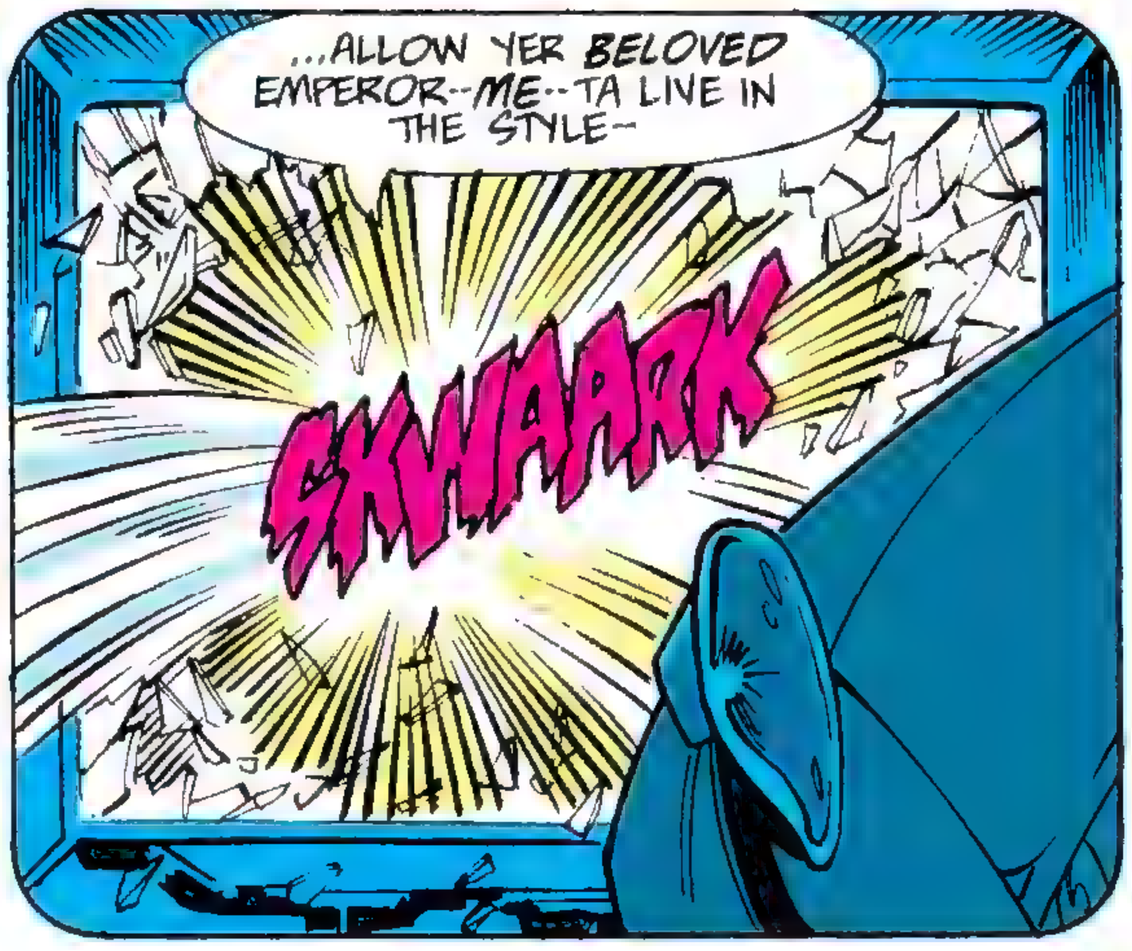
THE SILVER SURFER®

& THE INFINITY GAUNTLET CROSSOVER

DEATH TO THE EMPEROR!

TO SAVE HIS PLANET, NORRIN RADD SURRENDERED HIS FREEDOM TO BECOME HERALD TO THE WORLD-DEVOURING GALACTUS. COATED WITH GALACTIC GLAZE, GIVEN A SURFBOARD OBEYING HIS MENTAL COMMANDS, AND GRANTED THE POWER COSMIC, HE NOW SOARS THE UNIVERSE A SHINING SENTINEL OF THE SPACEWAYS! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . . THE SILVER SURFER!



All is not well on the Kree homeworld.

IMBECILE! THE GREEDY LITTLE PIG WILL DESTROY THE EMPIRE YET!

Not well at all.

The FOOL on the THRONE

RON MARZ - WRITER
RON LIM - PENCILER
TOM CHRISTOPHER - INKER
KEN BRUZENAK - LETTERER
TOM VINCENT - COLORIST
CRAIG ANDERSON - EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO - CHIEF

"EMPEROR" CLUMSY FOULUP--!

THE THOUGHT OF ANY *ALIEN* ON THE KREE THRONE SHOULD *SICKEN* YOU ALL!

BUT *THIS*... THIS NO LOYAL KREE COULD BEAR!

WELL SPOKEN, GENERAL AEL-DAN! FOULUP HAS DONE NOTHING BUT *LINE HIS OWN POCKETS* SINCE TAKING POWER.

THE ENTIRE *EMPIRE* TEETERS ON THE BRINK OF *COLLAPSE*. OUR MILITARY HAS BEEN CRIPPLED DUE TO LACK OF FUNDING.

AND THESE BAFFLING *MASS DISAPPEARANCES* HAVE CREATED FURTHER CHAOS!

BUT PERHAPS THE *TURMOIL* CAN BE TURNED IN OUR FAVOR. GENERAL DAR-BENN?

FOULUP *DISGRACES* OUR THRONE BECAUSE THE *COTATI* KEEP HIM THERE. NOW THE COTATI HAVE *VANISHED*.

THE SUPREME INTELLIGENCE IS STILL *MAD*, SO *TRUE SONS* OF KREE MUST TAKE MATTERS INTO THEIR *OWN* HANDS.

IT IS OUR PATRIOTIC DUTY TO SEE CLUMSY FOULUP ASSASSINATED, ALONG WITH HIS *TRAITOROUS* LAP DOG, DWI-ZANN.

THE KREE *WILL* ONCE AGAIN CONTROL *THEIR OWN* DESTINY.

GENERALS, OUR *LOYALTY* TO YOU AND THE EMPIRE IS *ABSOLUTE*. YOU HAVE BUT TO *ASK* AND WE SHALL *SERVE*.

BUT WHEN THE THRONE IS *EMPTY*, WILL THERE NOT BE *CIVIL WAR*? THE *BLUES* WILL WANT ONE OF THEIR OWN AS EMPEROR, AS WILL THE *PINKS*.

QUITE SO, COLONEL.

FOULUP'S DEATH WILL BE *WITNESSED* BY THE ENTIRE EMPIRE. IMMEDIATELY AFTER, GENERAL AEL-DAN AND I WILL SEIZE POWER *PUBLICLY* AND *JOINTLY*.

THERE WILL BE *NO* RACIAL CONFLICT.

WE ARE TO KILL HIM *IN PUBLIC*?

WHY NOT *POISON* HIS FOOD, OR *MURDER* HIM WHILE HE SLEEPS?. THE *CLANDESTINE* WAY IS BEST.

UNFORTUNATELY *NO*, CORPORAL AA-GARN.

THERE CAN BE *NO SUSPICION* IN THE PEOPLE'S MINDS. SUSPICIOUS MINDS TEND TOWARD *REBELLIOUS* THOUGHTS.

WE CAN'T AFFORD TO BE *CHALLENGED* BEFORE WE CENTRALIZE POWER.

IF THE EXECUTION IS *PUBLIC*, DON'T WE *AGAIN* RISK CIVIL WAR?

IF A *BLUE* DELIVERS THE KILLING STROKE, THE *PINKS* WILL BALK, AND VICE VERSA.

A *POSSIBILITY*, I CONCEDE.

OFFICERS, ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE THE SOLUTION TO *ANY* CONTINGENCY.

SALUTATIONS, HONORABLE KREE WARRIORS.

THE SILVER SURFER!?

YOU BRING THAT *ALLY* OF THE SKRULLS *HERE*?

HE WHO IS *RESPONSIBLE* FOR OUR DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF OUR *SWORN ENEMIES*?

THEN LET THIS COUP BEGIN WITH *HIS* DEATH.

I WILL NOT SUFFER THE SILVER SURFER TO *LIVE!*

GAAAKKKCH!

KA-CHOW

ANY MORE *OBJECTIONS*?

GOOD.

THE SURFER WISHES TO *ATONE* FOR HIS... *MISGUIDED*... PART IN OUR CONFLICT WITH THE SKRULLS.

HE WILL BE THE *PERFECT ASSASSIN.*

YOU HAVE NO *COMPUNCTIONS* ABOUT KILLING FOULUP?

NONE WHATSOEVER.

I WISH ONLY TO HELP THE KREE EMPIRE *REGAIN* ITS *FORMER GLORY.*

YOU SEE? THIS REALLY IS A *NEW* SILVER SURFER.

HE'S *WHOLLY COMMITTED* TO OUR CAUSE. WITH HIS HELP, WE *CANNOT FAIL.*

FOULUP HAS ANOTHER SPEECH PLANNED FOR *TOMORROW NIGHT*, NO DOUBT TO ANNOUNCE *ANOTHER* REASON TO *FLEECE* THE PEOPLE.

WE SEE NO REASON TO DELAY THE...*OPERATION*.

IN A LITTLE MORE THAN A DAY, THE *KREE EMPIRE* WILL BE BACK IN *KREE* HANDS.

THEN I SHALL *PREPARE* MYSELF.

IF YOU'LL *EXCUSE* ME?

CERTAINLY. WE *ALL* SHOULD DEPART.

WHEN AGAIN WE MEET, THE KREE PEOPLE WILL BE *FREED* FROM A *TERRIBLE BURDEN*, THANKS TO YOU.

IT'S THE *LEAST* I CAN DO FOR THE *EMPIRE*.

THE SURFER KNOWS *HIS PART* IN THE PLAN.

YOU WILL ALL RECEIVE *INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTIONS* BY COURIER THIS EVENING. *MEMORIZE* THEM, THEN *DESTROY* THEM.

GLORY TO THE EMPIRE.

GO NOW, AND *LEAVE* SEPARATELY. SPEAK TO *NO ONE*.

FAILURE IS WORTH *YOUR LIVES*.

GLORY TO THE EMPIRE.

THEY REACTED WELL.

OF COURSE.

WE CHOSE THEM FOR THEIR *UNFAILING PATRIOTISM*. THEY'RE *BLIND* TO ANYTHING ELSE.

WAS *THAT* NECESSARY?

HE WAS ALWAYS A *LOYAL SOLDIER*.

AND, AS SUCH, IT WAS HIS *DUTY* TO DIE. SPARE ME YOUR *COMPASSION*, DAR-BENN.

HIS *RASHNESS* COULD HAVE COST US *DEARLY*. THERE'S NO LONGER ROOM FOR *ERROR*.

SEVEN *CONSPIRATORS* CAN TAKE A THRONE AS EASILY AS *EIGHT*.

AND WHAT OF THE SURFER?

WILL *HE* PERFORM AS WE NEED HIM TO?

I SEE NO REASON HE *WOULDN'T*.

HE'LL *KILL* FOULUP ON EMPIRE-WIDE TELEVISION...

...THEN WE'LL DESTROY *HIM*.

HEY!

HEY, YOU!

IZZIS T'ING ON YET?

NOT YET, EMPEROR.

PLEASE... IT'S ALMOST TIME.

YA KNOW, DWI OL' BOY, YOUSE WORRY TOO MUCH.

MY SUBJECTS LOVE ME. LET 'EM WAIT.

MAKEUP!

HOW'M I LOOKIN', GIRLS?

GORGEOUS, DOLL.

HANDSOME AS EVER, C.F.

YOU SEE THAT GLINT ON THE HORIZON?

WHAT, THAT?

PROBABLY JUST SOME KID ON A SPEEDER.

MAYBE.

SO HOW COME IT'S GETTING CLOSER?

GOOD QUESTION.

NNNGUUHD!

AWRIGHT, AWRIGHT!

I LOOKS GOOD ENOUGH. LEAVE MY ROYAL PERSON BE.

HUSTLE YER LITTLE BUTTS OUTTA HERE.

...SO, AFTER I SNEAK INTO HER BARRACKS, SHE STARTS UNZIPPING HER--

OH, MAN, WE'RE--

IMPERIAL TRANSMISSION CENTER

I AIN'T GOT ALL DAY.

LET'S GET DIS SHOW ON 'A ROAD.

..DEEEAAAD!

IT'S ON?

OKAY, 'BOUT TIME.

AHAACK! AHEM. SUBJECTS OF THE KREE EMPIRE, YOUR EMPEROR WHO IS ME, OF COURSE, SPEAKS TO YOUSE.

TRANSMISSION IN PROGRESS

... COME TA MY ATTENTION DAT THE ROYAL TREASURY IS IN A SERIOUS STATE OF COMPLETION... ER, DEPLETION, I MEAN.

SO, TA REMEDY THE SITCHEATION...

...THERE'S GONNA BE A 30 PERCENT LUXURY TAX ON...

TRANSMISS IN PROGRESS

...EVERYTHING--?!

WRRR

THE SILVER SURFER BRINGS YOU GREETINGS FROM THE *SKRULL EMPIRE.*

THEY CARED ENOUGH TO SEND THE VERY *BEST.*

...uhbuh... buh...buh...

YOUR REIGN IS OVER EMPEROR.

MY MASTERS, THE SKRULLS, HAVE DECIDED TO END THIS FALSE PEACE AND MAKE WAR UNTO YOU UNTIL NO KREE DRAWS BREATH.

YOU HAVE THE HONOR OF BEING THE FIRST CASUALTY.

NOT ME! NOT ME! NOT ME!

NO!

STAND AWAY FROM THE EMPEROR!

CONFRONT A WARRIOR INSTEAD!

COULD IT BE GENERAL DWI-ZANN?

THE MAN WHO KEEPS THIS TOAD ON THE THRONE?

YOU SHOW SOME LITTLE BACKBONE AT THE END. SURPRISING.

THE SKRULLS DO ADMIRE WARRIORS...

...BUT NOT AS MUCH AS THEY DESPISE TRAITORS.

KEEP FILMING.

IT WOULD BE LESS MESSY.

CLUMSY FOULUP, YOU ARE HEREBY SENTENCED TO DEATH BY THE SKRULL EMPIRE.

...NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO

SENTENCE TO BE CARRIED OUT IMMEDIATELY.

YAAAAHHH!

DEATH TO THE EMPEROR, AS TO THE EMPIRE!

NOW LET WAR *RAVAGE* THIS *SORRY EXCUSE* FOR A CIVILIZATION.

THEN *YOU* WILL BE THE *SECOND* CASUALTY, MERCENARY.

THE KREE EMPIRE *WILL* HAVE *VENGEANCE.*

UNLESS YOU CHOOSE TO *SURRENDER* AND ACCEPT YOUR *PUNISHMENT.*

SURRENDER?

TO A HANDFUL OF KREE *BOY SCOUTS?*

RUN HOME TO YOUR *MOTHERS,* WHELPS.

THEN IF IT SHALL BE *WAR...*

...LET IT BEGIN HERE!!

KEEP FILMING.

GET EVERYTHING.

SUFFER THE PRICE OF YOUR TREACHERY, SKRULL-PAWN!

FOR THE GLORY OF THE EMPIRE!

TASTE THE FURY OF THE KREE!

SKA-CHOOM!

A FITTING END FOR AN ENEMY OF THE EMPIRE.

BUT AT WHAT COST TO THE EMPIRE?

OUR BELOVED EMPEROR SLAIN IN HIS PRIME.

OTHER INNOCENT LIVES LOST.

INDEED, A BLACK DAY IN KREE HISTORY.

IN TIME WE WILL MOURN OUR FALLEN EMPEROR. BUT NOW WE MUST GIRD OURSELVES FOR BATTLE.

THE HEINOUS CRIMES OF THE SKRULLS WILL NOT GO UNPUNISHED.

ENTIRE GALAXIES WILL DROWN IN THEIR BLOOD.

AEL-DAN SWEARS IT.

OUR INTELLIGENCE SOURCES INFORMED US OF THE PLOT TO ASSASSINATE THE EMPEROR, BUT SADLY, TOO LATE.

WE COULD ONLY AVENGE HIS DEATH, NOT PREVENT IT.

OUR EMPIRE IS WITHOUT A LEADER AS IT ENTERS THE GREAT STRUGGLE AHEAD.

GENERAL DAR-BENN AND I WILL SHOULDER THAT BURDEN.

WE SHALL LEAD THE EMPIRE AS IT MUSTERS FOR WAR AGAINST THE SKRULLS.

MARTIAL LAW WILL, OF COURSE, HAVE TO BE IMPOSED. BUT ONLY UNTIL SUCH TIME AS FREE ELECTIONS CAN BE HELD.

GIVE US YOUR LOYALTY AND WE WILL GIVE YOU VICTORY.

GLORY TO THE EMPIRE!

HE SERVED OUR *PURPOSES* WELL.

OF COURSE. THE SILVER SURFER IS *NOTHING* IF NOT *DEPENDABLE.*

THAT'S ALL. TURN IT *OFF.*

CLEAR THE ROOM!

EVERYONE OUT!

YOUR *NEW LEADERS* WOULD LIKE SOME *PRIVACY.*

WE'D BETTER GATHER UP OUR *EVIDENCE.*

AND THEN *GET RID* OF IT. NO LOOSE ENDS.

NONE WHATSOEVER.

HOW *LONG* WILL THIS WAR *LAST*, DO YOU THINK?

AS LONG AS WE *NEED* IT TO.

THE PEOPLE ARE LIKE *CATTLE.* THEY'LL *FOLLOW YOU* AS LONG AS THEY THINK YOU'RE GOING IN THE *RIGHT* DIRECTION.

AS LONG AS THERE'S A *WAR*, THE *MILITARY* PROVIDES THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

B 7

B 9

B 10

AND WE *ARE* THE MILITARY.

DR. KAER-LINN?

ARE YOU *THERE*?

MAYBE THE *OLD GEEZER'S* NAPPING.

ADV C D
ROBO ICS LA
28

NOT NAPPING, NOT NAPPING.

BRING HIM *IN*, AND *TELL* ME...

... HOW DID *MY BOY* PERFORM?

PERFECTLY, DOCTOR.

HIS CONSTRUCTION AND PROGRAMMING WERE *PERFECT*.

WELL, WHEN YOU'RE *LEFT ALONE* YOU CAN WORK *WONDERS*.

HARDLY A SOUL EVEN *REMEMBERS* I'M DOWN HERE.

UGGHAAACK!

PITY.

SO NO *ONE* WILL SHED A TEAR.

klik

00:30

BWOOOH!

ANY LOOSE ENDS?

NONE WHATSOEVER!

I DO LIKE IT WHEN THINGS ARE TIDY.

WHAT SHALL WE DO FIRST, WITH THIS EMPIRE OF OURS?

FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHER HALF OF IT.

AND STOP IT FROM HAPPENING TO WHAT'S LEFT.

In 2 Weeks: The REAL SILVER SURFER BATTLES

THE RHINO

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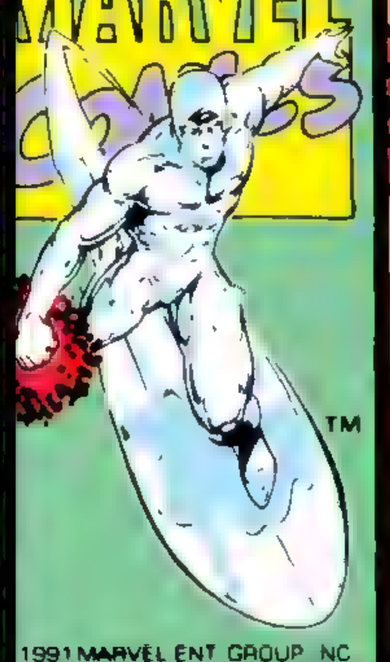

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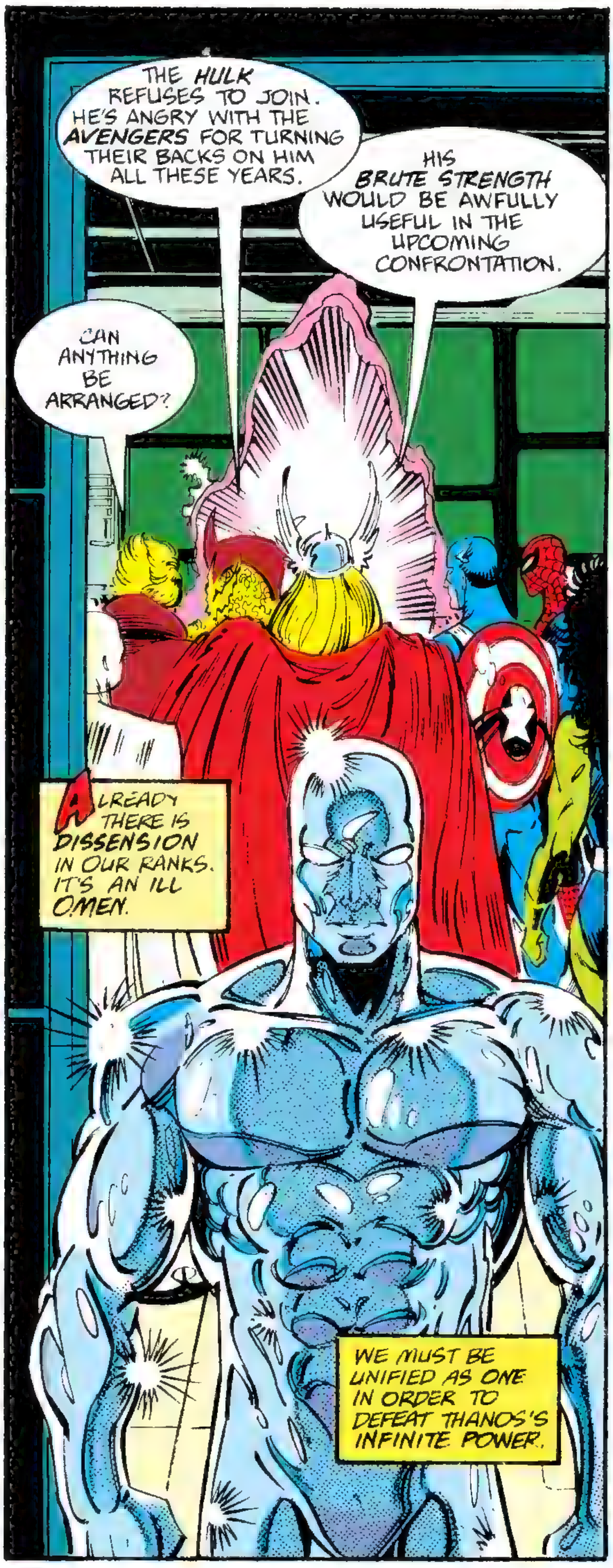
THE SILVER SURFER®

∞ INFINITY GAUNTLET CROSSOVER

THE RAGE OF THE RHINO!™

50 YEARS OF CAPTAIN AMERICA
1941 – 1991

TO SAVE HIS PLANET, NORRIN RADD SURRENDERED HIS FREEDOM TO BECOME HERALD TO THE WORLD-DEVOURING GALACTUS. COATED WITH GALACTIC GLAZE, GIVEN A SURFBOARD OBEYING HIS MENTAL COMMANDS, AND GRANTED THE POWER COSMIC, HE NOW SOARS THE UNIVERSE A SHINING SENTINEL OF THE SPACEWAYS! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . . THE SILVER SURFER!



NO ONE IMAGINED HE COULD AGAIN POSE A THREAT TO ALL EXISTENCE. HOW NAIVE WE ALL WERE.

HOW NAIVE I WAS, TO HAVE ACTUALLY BELIEVED I HAD SLAIN THE VILLAIN.* I WAS BUT A PAWN IN HIS GAMBIT.

*SILVER SURFER #38.

I FELT REMORSE WHEN I THOUGHT THANOS'S BLOOD WAS ON MY HANDS. I WAS ASHAMED I HAD KILLED. WOULD THAT I HAD DONE SO.

HAD HE THEN MET DEATH, THE UNIVERSE WOULD NOT BE IMPERILED NOW. I HAVE ALWAYS CONSIDERED MYSELF A CHAMPION OF LIFE...

...BUT I WOULD GLADLY DESTROY THANOS COULD INNOCENTS BE SPARED. WOULD I NOT BE JUSTIFIED?

THESE THOUGHTS WEIGH HEAVILY UPON ME. THE FINAL CONFRONTATION APPROACHES AND MY MIND MUST BE UNCLUTTERED.

WHILE ADAM WARLOCK DRAWS HIS BATTLE PLANS, I FEEL THE NEED FOR A DIVERSION.

SOMETHING TO PROVIDE DISTRACTION FROM THE IMPENDING CONFLICT.

AND I WON'T FIND IT IN THE HALLS OF AVENGERS HEADQUARTERS.

CAGES

RON MARZ - WRITER · RON LIM - PENCILER · TOM CHRISTOPHER - INKER

KEN BRUZENAK - LETTERER · TOM VINCENT - COLORIST · CRAIG ANDERSON - EDITOR · TOM DeFALCO - CHIEF

TAKE ME AWAY MY BOARD.

LET US EXPLORE OUR SURROUNDINGS.

THIS CITY IS AN UGLY GROWTH OF CONCRETE AND STEEL, DENYING ANY HINT OF EARTH'S NATURAL BEAUTY.

YET THIS PARK IS AN OASIS AMID THE DECAYING SPRAWL. AT LEAST IT WAS BEFORE THANOS' UPHEAVALS RIPPED IT ASUNDER.

NATURE HAS ALWAYS EASED MY MIND IN THE PAST. PERHAPS I SHALL FIND MY DIVERSION HERE.

TRULY, A DERANGED GOD RULES CREATION. THANOS WREAKED THIS DESTRUCTION WITH A CASUAL THOUGHT.

IT WOULD BE A DISASTER OF EPIC PROPORTIONS...

...WERE IT NOT OVERSHADOWED BY THE HUMAN TRAGEDY.

HALF OF EVERYTHING THAT LIVES SIMPLY WILLED OUT OF EXISTENCE. WIVES WRENCHED FROM HUSBANDS, CHILDREN STRIPPED OF THEIR PARENTS... UTTERLY SADISTIC.

THANOS MUST BE STOPPED. HE WILL BE STOPPED, ONCE OUR FORCES ARE MARSHALLED.

FOR NOW, I'LL DO WHAT I CAN HERE. IT IS BEYOND MY POWERS TO SOOTHE EMOTIONAL SUFFERING, BUT I CAN REPAIR THIS PHYSICAL DAMAGE.

CENTRAL PARK ZOO

presents

FOR TWO WEEKS ONLY

SPECIAL ATTRACTION

SIBERIAN TIGE

IT FEELS GOOD TO ACTUALLY BE ACCOMPLISHING SOMETHING. I'VE FELT... INEFFECTUAL... FOR TOO LONG.

THIS WAITING IS NOT SOMETHING TO WHICH I'M ACCUSTOMED. IT DOES NOT SUIT ME.

HUH?

WHAT MANNER OF CREATURE ARE YOU, LITTLE FELLOW?

OR SHOULD I BETTER ASK FROM WHENCE YOU CAME?

I HAVEN'T SEEN THE LIKE OF YOU BEFORE.

AND EVIDENTLY YOU DON'T LIKE THE LOOK OF ME.

I AM NOT FAMILIAR WITH ALL OF EARTH'S CREATURES.

I SHALL MAKE THE EFFORT TO *LEARN* EARTH'S FLORA AND FAUNA, SINCE I SEEM TO BE *DRAWN* HERE SO OFTEN.

PERHAPS DOCTOR STRANGE COULD...

THEY'RE LOOSE! THEY'RE ALL LOOSE!

GET OUT OF THE PARK!

THEY'RE COMING!

WHAT'S LOOSE?

WHO'S COMING?

SAVE YOURSELVES!

WAIT!

COME *BACK* HERE AND TELL ME...

...WHAT'S GOING ON?

I WONDER WHAT HAS *HIM* SO EXCITED?

WELL.

I MAY BE *IGNORANT* OF EARTH ANIMALS, BUT IT'S OBVIOUS SOMETHING LIKE *THAT* SHOULDN'T ROAM FREE.

SINCE THAT CREATURE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE A *THREAT* AT THE MOMENT, THE *BEST* COURSE OF ACTION WOULD SEEM TO BE *INVESTIGATING* WHERE IT CAME FROM.

I CAN ROUND IT UP *LATER.*

THIS MUST SERVE AS SOME SORT OF *EXHIBITION FACILITY* FOR ANIMALS.

A *ZOO*, I THINK THEY WERE CALLED. WE *ABOLISHED* THEM ON ZENN-LA LONG AGO.

EVIDENTLY, THEY'RE *STILL LEGAL* ON EARTH.

WHATEVER ANIMALS THESE AREAS CONTAINED ARE *GONE*, THOUGH. THE DAMAGE TO THEIR HOLDING PENS ISN'T *RANDOM.*

FROM THE *LOOK* OF IT, THEY WERE SET FREE *DELIBERATELY.*

BUT WHY WOULD *ANYONE* WANT TO *DO* SUCH A THING?

...HAVE YOU *FREE* IN A MINUTE.

AT LEAST YA AIN'T GONNA BE IN A *CAGE* WHEN THE *END* COMES.

MAYBE YA CAN THROW A *LITTLE SCARE* INTO THE FOLKS AROUND HERE, TOO,

SNAP!

WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?*

HRRUMPH...

GO ON NOW. GET *OUTTA* HERE.

AND DON'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO *HIM.*

EXCUSE ME...

...BUT I ASKED YOU WHAT YOU WERE DOING.

WHAT!!!

WHADDA YA WANT?

WHY DON'T YA QUIT BUGGIN' ME?

I WANT TO KNOW WHY YOU'RE SETTING THE ANIMALS FREE.

WHY? 'CAUSE THE END OF THE WORLD'S COMING, THAT'S WHY! WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE, THE ANIMALS, TOO.

IT'S FREEDOM, CHROMEDOME. EVERYBODY DESERVES A TASTE OF FREEDOM.

I BEEN BEHIND BARS PLENTY OF TIMES. LOCKED UP AIN'T NO WAY TO DIE, SO I TURNED 'EM LOOSE.

HOW CAN YOU BE CERTAIN WE'LL ALL PERISH?

LOOK AROUND!

EVERYBODY'S DISAPPEARING, EARTHQUAKES, FLOODS... THIS IS IT, KISS EVERYTHING GOODBYE. THESE ANIMALS AIN'T GONNA BE CAGED UP WHEN THE TIME COMES.

THEY DESERVE TO RUN FREE ONE LAST TIME.

AND IF THEY MAKE A SNACK OUTTA SOMEBODY WHILE THEY'RE DOING IT, SO MUCH THE BETTER.

I LIKE WIDESPREAD PANIC.

TRUE, A MADMAN CALLED THANOS THREATENS THE UNIVERSE, BUT A LEGION OF HEROES IS GATHERING TO OPPOSE HIM. HE WILL BE DEFEATED.

YOUR WORLD WILL BE SAVED.

SO WHY DON'T YOU HELP ME COLLECT THE ANIMALS? IT'S DANGEROUS FOR THEM TO ROAM UNCHECKED.

UMMMMM...

NOT A CHANCE.

THAT WAS *UNCALLED* FOR.

NOBODY EVER ACCUSED *THE RHINO* OF GOOD MANNERS.

NOW GO PEDDLE THAT *OPTIMIST BULL* SOMEPLACE ELSE. I AIN'T *INTERESTED.*

I HAVE NO WISH TO *FIGHT* YOU.

WHOMP!

THEN DON'T.

STAND STILL AND I'LL JUST *BASH* YOU AROUND FOR A WHILE.

IT APPEARS THERE'S *NO REASONING* WITH YOU.

YOU'LL HAVE TO BE *CONVINCED.*

HOW YOU GONNA DO THAT, *SKINNY?*

BLIND ME WITH YOUR *HIGH-GLOSS* FINISH?

THIS USUALLY WORKS *MUCH BETTER.*

NO, I DON'T *THINK* SO.

OOOOOF!

OWWWCHH!

YOU DIDN'T SAY NOTHING ABOUT BEING *ARMED.*

KRUNK!!

YOU *NEGLECTED* TO *ASK.*

NOW ARE YOU WILLING TO *SURRENDER* AND END THIS NONSENSE?

NOPE

I HAVE NOT YET BEGUN TO FIGHT!

A GREAT AMERICAN SAID THAT.

GENERAL CUSTER, I THINK.

THIS IS POINTLESS.

YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY HOPE TO DEFEAT ME. NO MATTER WHAT YOUR SIZE OR STRENGTH, YOU'RE STILL MERELY HUMAN.

THE ENERGY OF THE UNIVERSE COURSES THROUGH MY BODY. MY POWER KNOWS FEW LIMITS.

AHHHH. SHUT UP!

WHUFFFF!

THAT'S ALL YOU GOOD GUYS EVER DO.. YAP, YAP, YAP,

I CAN'T STAND IT.

MAYBE THERE WOULDN'T BE SO MANY OF US CRIMINALS RUNNING AROUND IF YOU HEROES SPENT MORE TIME FIGHTING AND LESS TIME YAKKING.

EVER THINK OF THAT?

SPLASH

C'MERE, YOU SLIPPERY *RUNT!*

STOP THIS FOOLISHNESS! I'VE NEITHER THE *TIME* NOR THE *DESIRE* FOR THIS STRUGGLE.

SORRY IF I'M *BORING* YOU.

LEMME GET MY *HANDS* AROUND YOUR NECK AND I'LL MAKE THIS *QUICK.*

SPLOOSH!

AWWW NOOOOOO!

NOW YOU DID IT. NOW YOU MADE ME MAD.

NOW I'M GONNA HAVE TO REALLY HURT YOU.

ISN'T IT YET APPARENT YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR ME? WHAT MORE PROOF DO YOU NEED?

YOU'LL ONLY CAUSE YOURSELF MORE INJURY.

THE RHINO DOESN'T GIVE UP FOR NOBODY.

WHEN I FLATTEN YOU, THERE WON'T BE ENOUGH LEFT TO SCRAPE UP WITH A SPOON.

COME THEN, IF YOU MUST. I WOULD BE DONE WITH THIS.

I'M READY.

ME, TOO!

I BELIEVE WE'LL BRING THIS TO A *CONCLUSION* NOW.

MY *PATIENCE* IS WEARING THIN, AND THERE IS A *FAR GRAVER* BATTLE TO BE FOUGHT.

UH-OH.

PERHAPS *THIS* WILL IMPROVE YOUR *MANNERS.*

WHY'S THIS ALWAYS HAPPEN TO ME?

KE-KRACK!

THAT WAS A *GUNSHOT!*

SOMEONE COULD BE *HURT!*

SOMEBODY'S TAKIN' *SHOTS* AT THE ANIMALS!

AW, NO.

AW, GEEZ, NO.

HE *SHOT* IT. THE IDIOT SHOT AN *INNOCENT ANIMAL.*

I TRIED TO *TELL YOU* THIS COULD HAPPEN.

FROM *THAT* DIRECTION.

WELL, HE AIN'T GONNA *GET AWAY* WITH IT!

IT...IT WAS L-LOOSE.

AFTER I *SHOVE* THAT GUN DOWN YER THROAT, I'M GONNA *POUND* YOU INTO JELLY... *OFFICER.*

YOU'LL DO *NOTHING!* HE IS UNDER *MY* PROTECTION.

YOU CAUSED THIS. IF YOU HADN'T *FREED* THE ANIMALS, THIS *WOULDN'T* HAVE HAPPENED.

I *TOLD* YOU IT WAS *DANGEROUS* FOR THEM TO ROAM, BUT YOU *WOULDN'T LISTEN.*

THE DANGER ISN'T *ONLY* TO PEOPLE. YOU PLACED THE *ANIMALS* IN JEOPARDY AS WELL.

I DIDN'T... MEAN FOR THIS TO HAPPEN.

I ONLY WANTED 'EM TO HAVE A FEW HOURS OF *FREEDOM*... BEFORE WE'RE ALL *GONE*. MAYBE EVEN *GET BACK* AT THE PEOPLE WHO *GAWK* AND *POINT* AT 'EM.

DOESN'T *EVERYBODY* DESERVE THAT MUCH?

YES, BUT... IT CAN'T BE. THEY *HAVE* TO BE IN THEIR CAGES.

THERE'S NO OTHER WAY.

WHY? HOW COME *THAT'S* OKAY?

THEY NEVER *ASKED* TO BE LOCKED UP AND PUT ON DISPLAY I KNOW *I* HATED IT. WHAT *RIGHT* DO YOU HAVE?

I DON'T KNOW.

I HAVE NO *ANSWER* TO GIVE YOU. BUT I CAN AT LEAST *HEAL* THE BEAST.

HOW'S THAT?

MY COSMIC POWERS AREN'T LIMITED TO THE *DESTRUCTIVE*. I CAN ALSO *CURE*.

FOR THEIR *OWN SAFETY*, THESE CREATURES MUST BE *RETURNED* TO THEIR HOMES.

WILL YOU *AID* ME?

YER ASKIN' ME TO MAKE 'EM *PRISONERS* AGAIN. I KNOW WHAT THAT'S LIKE. YA DON'T EVEN HAVE A *LIFE*...YA JUST *PACE* THE FLOOR.

I WISH THERE WERE *ANOTHER* SOLUTION.

YEAH. *I KNOW*. ME, TOO.

I GUESS *SOME* OF US ARE JUST *MEANT* TO LIVE IN CAGES.

LET'S GET IT DONE.

ALL PRESENT AND ACCOUNTED FOR.

UNFORTUNATELY.

YOU KNOW THIS WAS THE ONLY THING WE COULD DO.

BUT I DON'T GOTTA LIKE IT.

THIS IS ALL A WASTE OF TIME ANYWAY. IN CASE YA FORGOT, THE WORLD'S STILL COMING TO AN END.

EVER THE PESSIMIST. IS THERE NO ROOM IN YOUR HEART FOR HOPE?

EVIL IS ALWAYS ITS OWN DOWNFALL. THANOS WILL BE TURNED BACK.

WHY NOT JOIN THE HEROES? YOUR STRENGTH WOULD BE A CONSIDERABLE ASSET IN THE CONFLICT.

NAW... THAT AIN'T REALLY MY CROWD.

I'M GONNA STAY HERE AND... KEEP AN EYE ON THINGS.

VERY WELL.

I HOPE WE SHALL MEET AGAIN UNDER LESS DRASTIC CIRCUMSTANCES.

YEAH, MAYBE...

...BUT SOMEHOW I *DOUBT* IT.

I *DOUBT* IT *VERY MUCH.*

MY THOUGHTS ARE ONCE MORE *FOCUSED.*

I FEEL RENEWED, *READY* FOR THE IMPENDING *BATTLE.*

GEE, THAT'S *KEEN.*

BUT IF YOU'RE DONE *GETTING IN TOUCH* WITH YOURSELF, MAYBE YOU COULD DO *SOMETHING USEFUL.*

GOLDILOCKS IS READY TO *ROCK 'N ROLL* IN THERE.

HULK?

IT'S TIME TO *PUT A HURT* ON THIS THANOS GOON.

TO BE CONTINUED...

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33
SEPT

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DR. STRANGE®

SORCERER SUPREME™

& INFINITY GAUNTLET CROSSOVER

TRAPPED IN A

TIME WARP!

HE WAS ONCE A SURGEON—AN ARROGANT MAN-OF-THE-WORLD SEDUCED BY MATERIAL WEALTH. THEN, WHEN A TRAGIC ACCIDENT DEPRIVED HIM OF HIS SURGICAL SKILLS, STEPHEN STRANGE DISCOVERED A SEPARATE REALITY, A HIGHER PLANE OF OCCULT FORCES IN ETERNAL CONFLICT. VOWING TO BE EARTH'S FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST MAGICAL MENACE, THE ERSTWHILE PHYSICIAN BECAME EARTH'S FOREMOST MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

DOCTOR STRANGE, SORCERER SUPREME!

AVENGERS HQ, NEW YORK CITY...

SO--

WHAT'S UP, DOC?

HOW ARE THINGS GOING UP AT UNCLE THANOS'S MONUMENT TO LOVE AND LASCIVIOUSNESS?

THE ALEXANDRIA QUATRAIN

ROY & DANN THOMAS
WRITERS
CHRIS MARRINAN
PENCILER
McKENNA & FRIENDS
INKERS
PAT BROSSEAU
LETTERER
GEORGE ROUSSOS
COLORIST
MIKE ROCKWITZ
EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

NUTS! I MIGHT AS WELL TALK TO A *WALL*, AS THIS SPACED-OUT *SORCERER SUPREME!*

CAN'T REALLY HOLD IT *AGAINST* HIM, THOUGH.

AFTER ALL, INSIDE HIS TRANCE, HE'S THE *MYSTIC ANCHOR* FOR ALL THE GUYS HE SENT OFF TO THE FAR SIDE OF THE GALAXY.*

AT LEAST I CAN SEE WHATEVER SHOWS IN HIS OVER-GROWN *EYE OF AGATHA CHRISTIE*, OR WHATEVER HE CALLS IT:

NAMELY, *ONE* BUNCH OF SUPER-TYPES THROWING THEMSELVES AT *THANOS*--

*SEE *INFINITY GAUNTLET* #3, NOW ON SALE.--MIKE

--WHILE THE *REST* OF 'EM POP UP *SOMEWHERE ELSE* ON HIS CRAZY *ZIGGURAT.*

HEY, AND HERE I THOUGHT THANOS *GAVE UP* ZIGGURATS!

SHEESH! I'M WASTING ALL MY *BEST MATERIAL* HERE--

--AND NOT EVEN *RINTRAH'S* AROUND TO YUK IT UP!

WELL, MAYBE WHEN OL' BULLWINKLE GETS BACK WITH THE *SIX-PACK* I CONNED HIM INTO BUYING--

--*HE* CAN FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET SOME *AUDIO* WITH THIS *VISUAL!*

AS, UNCOUNTED LIGHT YEARS AWAY...

I CAN *FREEZE* THESE AUDACIOUS ATTACKERS IN *TIME,* WITH BUT A PASSING THOUGHT...

...AND I SUPPOSE I *SHALL.*

STILL, I SENSE THERE IS *SOME-ONE*-- SOMEONE *FAR AWAY*--WHO MIGHT POSSIBLY BE ABLE TO *REVIVE* THEM AGAIN.

HIM I MUST DEAL WITH *FIRST!*

AND HIS NAME IS--

--DR. STRANGE!

THE SO-CALLED "SORCERER SUPREME" FANCIES HIMSELF A *PLAYER* ACROSS THE *COSMIC GULF*, DOES HE?

WELL, HE WILL SOON FIND THAT, WHEN HE ALLIED HIMSELF WITH *ADAM WARLOCK* AGAINST *THANOS*, MASTER OF THE *INFINITY GEMS*--

KLAPPT!

"--HE CHALLENGED ONE BEFORE WHOM HE IS BUT A *HELPLESS CHILD!*"

BY THE MOONS OF MUNNOPOR --!

UH, DOC--

--I TAKE IT *THIS* ISN'T EXACTLY PART OF YOUR *GAME PLAN?*

STEPHEN--!

BY THE *VIPERS OF VALTORR*--

NO!

IT'S NO USE, LADY! I CAN'T EVEN *TOUCH* HIM.

CLEA-- STAY BACK!

THANOS--SENT BACK SOME SORT OF *MAELSTROM*--

THEN WE'LL RESIST IT--

TOGETHER--?!

HEY! YOU TWO COME *BACK!*

DON'T LEAVE OLD *PIP THE TROLL* HERE ALL--

--ALONE.

YOU SHOULD'VE STAYED *OUT* OF THIS, CLEA!

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GO ALL *OVER-PROTECTIVE* AGAIN, ARE YOU?

I BELIEVE WE ALREADY *HAD* THAT DISCUSSION.

MAY THE *STARS* THAT ARE *ETERNITY'S FACE* NOW CEASE TO MOVE-- BE *HEAVEN'S CHIMERA!* LET *HOGGOTH'S HAND*, THROUGH TIME AND SPACE NOW GRASP SOME *TALISMAN* IN A PASSING *ERA!*

WE-WE'VE *HOOKED* SOMETHING! I CAN *SENSE* IT!

BUT--EVEN *MY* MAGIC-- CAN'T QUITE *HOLD ON* TO IT--

--SLIPPING --!

LET *ME* HELP, STEPHEN!

I STILL HAVE *SOME* OF MY FORMER POWERS LEFT!

BY THE WAY-- WHAT'S *HAPPENING* TO US?

THANOS'S MAELSTROM IS SENDING US *BACKWARD THROUGH TIME--*

--SO THAT I CAN'T CONTINUE TO *ANCHOR* THE HEROES WE SENT AGAINST HIM!

GOT TO *GRAB HOLD* OF SOMETHING--SOME *DAY* OR *YEAR* RACING PAST US LIKE SCENERY OUTSIDE A SPEEDING TRAIN--

--OR WE'LL WIND UP AT THE *BEGINNING OF TIME*, WITH NO TICKET *BACK!*

YOU'VE-- *TIPPED THE SCALES!*

WE'VE OPENED A *GAP* IN THE TIME-MAELSTROM--

--AND WE'RE *OUT!*

NOW ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS FIND OUT *WHERE* WE--

ARROWS OF OSHTUR!

THAT *LIGHT--SO BLINDING--!*

DOES *THANOS* ATTACK US ANEW-- EVEN *HERE?*

NO! THE LIGHT'S BEING CAST FROM MIRRORS IN THAT TOWER DEAD AHEAD...

WAIT! I'VE SEEN THAT STRUCTURE IN VISIONS I'VE CONJURED UP IN THE ORB OF AGA-MOTTO.

IT'S--THE LIGHTHOUSE OF PHAROS!

THE "WHERE" IS THE EASY PART. PHAROS WAS AN ISLAND IN THE HARBOR AT ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT--

--AND ITS FABLED LIGHTHOUSE WAS ONE OF THE SO-CALLED "SEVEN WONDERS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD."

PERSONALLY, FROM WHAT I CAN SEE OF THE ARCHITECTURE BELOW, I'D SAY IT'S EARLIER, RATHER THAN LATER.

I WONDER WHY YOUR SPELL LATCHED ONTO THIS TIME AND PLACE, AS OPPOSED TO ANOTHER.

AS TO THE "WHEN"-- WE COULD'VE WASHED UP ANYTIME BETWEEN 280 B.C., WHEN IT WAS BUILT --AND THE 13TH CENTURY OR SO, WHEN IT WAS DESTROYED-- SOME SAY, BY AN EARTHQUAKE.

THE WHAT!?

IF WE'VE REALLY TUMBLED BACKWARD INTO EARTH'S HISTORY, PLEASE REMEMBER-- I'M NOT A NATIVE.

ASSUMING YOU REALLY CAN TELL ONE LIGHTHOUSE FROM ANOTHER--

--WHERE ARE WE?

AND JUST AS IMPORTANT--WHEN ARE WE?

OF COURSE! WHAT A FOOL I WAS NOT TO THINK OF IT RIGHT AWAY!

THE LIBRARY!

SNAP!

WE LAND KNEE-DEEP IN HISTORY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT--AND YOU WANT TO CHECK OUT A *BOOK?*

I DIDN'T SAY "A" LIBRARY

I SAID *"THE"* LIBRARY!

I'M AFRAID I STILL DON'T--

I'LL EXPLAIN LATER.

RIGHT NOW, IF THOSE *EGYPTIANS* ARE PANICKING FOR THE REASON I THINK, WE'D BETTER FIND IT *FAST.*

EEEEE!

YOU SEE, DURING A CIVIL WAR CIRCA 47-48 B.C., LEGEND SAYS THAT THE ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY WAS *BURNED* IN A GREAT *FIRE...*

YOU MEAN--

--LIKE *THAT* ONE, OVER BY THE *DOCKS?*

FOR CENTURIES, HELLENISTIC SCHOLARS AMASSED HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF SCROLLS--IN AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT *"THE BOOKS OF ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD"*--INCLUDING THOSE OF MAGIC.

TO HAVE MISSED SEEING THE *GREAT LIBRARY*--MISSED BROWSING AMONG ITS PAPYRUS AND PACHMENTS--BY SO LITTLE--!

AND THEN AGAIN--PERHAPS IT *IS.*

THESE *ARE* FLAMING PIECES OF PARCHMENT RAINING DOWN ON US, AFTER ALL.

LET'S SEE--*"CIPACTLI ACATL OMEYOCAN..."*

THIS WAS FROM SOME *TOME OF SORCERY,* ALL RIGHT.

I RECOGNIZE A MINOR INCANTATION ASSOCIATED WITH MY ANCESTORS, THE *FALTINE...*

BUT, IF THE LIBRARY'S BEING *DESTROYED*--

MOONS OF MUNNOPOR...

BUT--IT'S JUST A *FIRE,* STEPHEN

PERHAPS IT *ISN'T* A LIBRARY THAT'S BURNING--LET ALONE *"THE"* LIBRARY.

--THEN WHAT MAGIC *REMAINED* HERE, FOR MY *QUATRAIN SPELL* TO HOME IN ON?

UNLESS...

HURRY, CLEA! WE'VE GOT TO FIND THE PALACE!

BUT-- WON'T SOME-ONE SEE US--

--LEVITATING AWAY UP HERE?

NOT LIKELY.

IF I'M RIGHT, THAT'S A FULL-SCALE REBELLION GOING ON DOWN THERE--

--WITH EGYPTIANS, UNDER THEIR BOY-KING PTOLEMY, BESIEGING THE ROMANS IN THE PALACE.

WHO'S GOT TIME TO LOOK SKYWARD THROUGH ALL THAT FIRE AND SMOKE?

SO...

...FLYING MAGICIANS HAVE COME FROM HATED ROME, TO HELP THE WOULD-BE USURPER AGAINST NOBLE PTOLEMY!

BUT THOSE WHO WOULD CONQUER EGYPT HAVE RECKONED WITHOUT--

--ZOTA OF PERGAMUM!

SO THIS IS THE PALACE THAT BECAME-- HERS!

"HERS"?

STEPHEN-- IS THERE SOMETHING YOU'RE NOT TELLING ME?

I WILL, AS SOON AS I'VE FINISHED CASTING A MENTAL SPELL TO LET US BOTH SPEAK AND UNDERSTAND LATIN.

HALT!

CAESAR COMMANDS!

AND A SORCERER SUPREME, REGRETTABLY, RESPONDS!

OWWRR--!

ARE YOU HURT BADLY, CAESAR?

NO, MY QUEEN. HE MERELY MADE MY SWORD TOO HOT TO HOLD.

BUT IF HE WIELDS HIS WIZARDLY POWER ON BEHALF OF YOUR BROTHER--

I DO NOT.

ARE THOSE TWO REALLY--JULIUS CAESAR AND CLEOPATRA?

NONE OTHER. RINTRAH AND I SAW THEM ON TV--PLAYED BY REX HARRISON AND LIZ TAYLOR!

AND WHO ARE YOU TWAIN?

I WARN YOU, MAGE--DESPITE YONDER REBELLION, I MEAN TO PUT CLEOPATRA ON EGYPT'S THRONE, IN PLACE OF HER BROTHER, KING PTOLEMY--

YOU--DON'T RECOGNIZE ME?!

SHOULD I?

--AND WHEN YOU DEFY MY WILL, YOU DEFY ROME!

STEPHEN--YOU ACT AS IF YOU'VE MET THIS WOMAN BEFORE.

I ONCE FOUND HER--AMNESIAC--WANDERING THE STREETS OF NEW YORK.

TURNED OUT SHE'D BEEN TIME-EXILED BY A MAGICIAN NAMED ZOTA.

BUT MARC ANTONY WAS HERE THEN--SO IT MUST HAVE BEEN AT LEAST A DECADE LATER, BY* HER CLOCK!

RICHARD BURTON--OF COURSE!

*STRANGE TALES (FIRST SERIES) #124. --MIKE

I KNOW NO "MARC ANTONY"--THOUGH ZOTA SUPPORTS MY BROTHER AGAINST MYSELF AND CAESAR'S LEGIONS.

THUS FAR, THEY HAVE DONE LITTLE MORE THAN SET ALIGHT A WARE-HOUSE NEAR THE DOCKS...

A...WARE-HOUSE? YES!

SORRY, PEOPLE, BUT WE'VE GOT TO FLY!

THEY ARE TRULY LIKE GODS--BUT WHO IS THIS "MARC ANTONY," CAESAR?

NO ONE YOU WILL EVER MEET, MY QUEEN--

--NOT WHILE I'M ALIVE!

CLEO REMINDED ME--DESPITE THE POPULAR ***LEGEND*** OF THE LIBRARY'S BURNING, THERE'S NO ***HISTORICAL EVIDENCE*** IT EVER HAPPENED--IN FACT, QUITE THE CONTRARY.

A ROMAN NAMED ***LUCAN*** WROTE ABOUT THE ***DEFENSIVE FIRE*** SET BY CAESAR'S TROOPS NEAR THE DOCKS--

--AND HOW IT BURNED SOME ***WAREHOUSES*** IN WHICH ***"GRAIN AND BOOKS"*** WERE STORED FOR EXPORT!

AND ***THAT'S*** WHAT WE SAW ON FIRE?

I'M ***POSITIVE*** OF IT--

--BECAUSE, NOW THAT I'M REORIENTED, I COULD FOLLOW ***MYSTIC EMANATIONS*** BACK TO WHERE A GREAT NUMBER OF ***MAGIC SCROLLS*** ARE KEPT.

MAY I PRESENT, MILADY--

--THE LEGENDARY ***LIBRARY OF ALEXANDRIA!***

SMALL WONDER YOUR SPELL BROUGHT US TO THIS ERA.

THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A ***FEW*** SORCEROUS SCROLLS IN THE WAREHOUSE--BUT THIS PLACE WOULD HAVE ACTED AS AN ABSOLUTE ***MAGNET!***

*"NOW LET THE **ROVING RINGS OF RAGGADORR** INTO EVERY CREVICE PEEK...*

*"...UNTIL THEY FIND, AMID SO MANY, THE VERY **SCROLL** I SEEK!"*

AH--HERE IT IS--

*--THE **BOOK OF THE VISHANTI!***

OR PERHAPS I SHOULD SAY, THE ***SCROLL*** OF THE VISHANTI--SINCE *"BOOKS"* AS WE KNOW THEM ARE STILL A FEW YEARS AWAY.

ONLY A SPELL LIKE MINE COULD HAVE LOCATED THIS SINGLE SCROLL SO QUICKLY, AMONG SUCH A MULTITUDE!

COME HERE, DARLING, AND TAKE A LOOK AT--

STEPHEN--!

CLEA!? I HEAR YOUR VOICE, BUT I CAN'T--

YOU--!

WHY DO YOU GASP IN RECOGNITION, ROMAN--

--WHEN WE HAVE NEVER SEEN EACH OTHER BEFORE?

NO MATTER! AFTER TONIGHT, YOU'LL NOT FORGET ZOTA, SORCERER OF PERGAMUM, WHOSE LIBRARY OF MAGICKS RIVALS EVEN ALEXANDRIA'S!

YOUR CAMP-FOLLOWER IS IMPRISONED WITHIN MY MIRROR OF MYSTERIES-- BEYOND ANY MAN'S POWER TO RE-LEASE HER!

LONG MONTHS HAVE I DWELT AMONG THE EGYPTIANS, SEEKING THE SCROLL OF THE VISHANTI--

--YET YOU FOUND IT, AS IF IT HAD BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.

STEPHEN-- NO!

WHATEVER HAPPENS TO ME-- YOU MUST NOT SURRENDER THE SCROLL!

YOU MUST GIVE IT TO ME-- OR I SHALL DESTROY THE MIRROR, AND THE WOMAN WITH IT!

YOU HEARD HER, ZOTA.

IF YOU DIDN'T FIND THE SCROLL, MAYBE IT WAS HIDING ITSELF FROM YOU.

MAYBE YOU SHOULD TAKE A HINT.

YOU BELIEVE MY THREAT A BLUFF, DON'T YOU?

I SHALL SHOW YOU IT IS NOT...

KRAKK

ONLY A FEW SPIDER-WEBS CRACKS AS YET-- BUT IF I STRIKE AGAIN--!

NOW, WIZARD-- MAY I HAVE THE SCROLL--

--OR DO I FINISH WHAT I HAVE BEGUN?

STEPHEN-- DON'T--!

HERE, MAGICIAN! I PREFER WOMEN TO BOOKS, MAGICIAN --

--AND IF YOU HAD THE BRAINS HOGGOTH GAVE HIS HORDES--

--SO WOULD YOU!

BY AGAMOTTO, WITNESS-- AND OSHTUR, HEARER-- NOW LET MY BELOVED COME FORTH FROM THIS MIRROR!

WH-WHAT DID YOU DO TO HIM?

I JUST REALIZED-- IF THE SCROLL HAD ELUDED HIM THUS FAR, THERE MUST BE A SPELL PROTECTING IT FROM UNWORTHY HANDS.

IF SO, I FIGURED THAT SPELL WOULD LASH OUT, IF HE SO MUCH AS TOUCHED IT-- AND IT DID.

WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW WITH ZOTA?

NOW? NOTHING. AFTER ALL, WE'RE DUE TO MEET AGAIN IN TEN YEARS, HIS TIME.

WHEN I LEAVE HIM THEN, HE'LL BE TOTALLY DRAINED OF ALL MAGICAL POWER, FOREVER.

AAAGGGG

RIGHT NOW, WE'VE GOT MORE *IMPORTANT* THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT.

I'VE GOT TO USE THE SCROLL TO MAKE CONTACT WITH OUR *ANCHOR* IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

IT'S OUR ONLY HOPE OF OVERCOMING THANOS'S EDICT AND GETTING *BACK* THERE.

"ANCHOR"?

I MAY NOT BE THE MAGE *YOU* ARE, DARLING, NOW THAT I'M NO LONGER *QUEEN OF THE DARK DIMENSION...*

BUT IF *THANOS*, WITH ALL HIS NEW-FOUND MIGHT, HURLED US BACKWARD IN TIME--IT WOULD TAKE AS GREAT A WIZARD AS *YOURSELF* TO PULL US *FORWARD* AGAIN!

BUT-- YOU'RE THE EARTH'S *SORCERER SUPREME!*

ALMOST BY DEFINITION, THERE *CAN'T* BE ANOTHER ONE BACK THERE WITH *YOUR* POWER...

...CAN THERE?

YECYOTL TALXICCO ONOC--

--KA-TZIH TA CH'UXOC VISHANTI!

STEPHEN--

--IT MUST BE *WORKING!*

EVERYTHING AROUND US--STARTING TO GET *HAZY*--AS IF WE'RE NO LONGER *IN SYNCH* WITH THIS TIME!

THANOS'S MAELSTROM NO LONGER *HOLDS* US HERE, CLEA.

SO I'LL RELEASE THE *SCROLL*--WHICH BELONGS IN *THIS* AGE, NOT OUR OWN--

WE'LL LEAVE *CAESAR* TO HIS FATE IN 44 B.C.--

--CLEOPATRA TO THE EVENTUAL MERCIES OF *MARC ANTONY, OCTAVIUS,* AND AN *ASP*--

--WHILE WE TRY TO STOP OUR *OWN* ERA FROM BEING TOTALLY *OBLITERATED!*

HELLO, PIP.

MISS US?

HEY! DON'T *DO* THAT TO A FELLA!

BUT--I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FOUND *ANOTHER* SORCERER SUPREME TO ANCHOR US HERE, AFTER THE FACT.

SURELY, NOT *PIP--!*

NO. NOT PIP.

LET'S NOT GO ALL *MODEST* ON THE LADY, STRANGE...

ADMIT IT! THE ONE MAN WHO COULD BE THE MAGICAL ANCHOR YOU NEEDED WAS *MYSELF--* *DR. ANTHONY DRUID--*

--BECAUSE I JUST HAPPEN TO BE THE *ONLY* PERSON YOU COULD *TRANSFER YOUR POWER* TO, ACROSS THE YEARS.

"...THAT I'D BEEN A SORT OF *TEST PROTOTYPE* FOR HIM, A FEW YEARS EARLIER, WHEN LIMITED POWERS WERE AWAKENED IN ME BY A *'DYING HIMALAYAN LAMA.'*

"THE OLD GENT WAS ACTUALLY STRANGE'S MENTOR, THE *ANCIENT ONE,* IN DISGUISE--BUYING A BIT OF TIME TILL *STEPHEN* KEPT HIS RENDEZVOUS WITH DESTINY.

YOU DO *KNOW* THIS GUY WHO WALTZED IN HERE, RIGHT, DOC?

OF *COURSE* HE KNOWS ME, TROLL!

I'M HIS *ALTER EGO,* SO TO SPEAK--EVEN IF I'VE ONLY *REALIZED* IT SINCE I ESCAPED FROM A *TIME BUBBLE.**

*AVENGERS SPOTLIGHT #37. --MIKE

IN CASE HE HASN'T *EXPLAINED* TO YOU *YET,* CLEA...

AND IF LEARNING THAT STARTLES *YOU,* CLEA, JUST IMAGINE WHAT IT DID TO *MY* FRAGILE EGO.

YOU'VE ADJUSTED VERY WELL, ANTHONY. THANKS FOR ANSWERING MY *PSYCHIC CALL.*

NO ONE ELSE COULD'VE PROVIDED THE *MAGICAL LINK-UP* I NEEDED ACROSS THE CENTURIES.

I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD THANK *YOU,* STEPHEN--

--FOR THE CHANCE TO MAKE UP FOR BEING SUCH A *JERK* BEFORE--LIKE WHEN I MESMERIZED THE *AVENGERS* INTO ELECTING ME CHAIRMAN!

IF YOU TWO CAN STOW THE MUTUAL ADMIRATION-- ANYBODY HERE GOT ANY BRIGHT IDEAS WHAT TO DO ABOUT *THANOS?*

NOT REALLY, PIP.

NOW, IF YOU'LL ALL EXCUSE ME...

...I HAVE TO GET BACK TO *WORK...!*

TO BE CONTINUED--
IN INFINITY GAUNTLET #4,
NO LESS!
THEN--IN DOC #34--IN SEARCH OF **DR. DOOM!**

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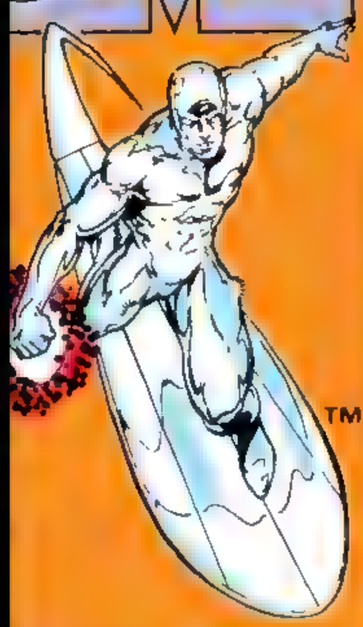

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THE SILVER SURFER

INFINITY GAUNTLET CROSSOVER

50 YEARS OF CAPTAIN AMERICA
1941 – 1991

THE UNIVERSE ACCORDING TO THANOS™

TO SAVE HIS PLANET, NORRIN RADD SURRENDERED HIS FREEDOM TO BECOME HERALD TO THE WORLD-DEVOURING GALACTUS. COATED WITH GALACTIC GLAZE, GIVEN A SURFBOARD OBEYING HIS MENTAL COMMANDS, AND GRANTED THE POWER COSMIC, HE NOW SOARS THE UNIVERSE A SHINING SENTINEL OF THE SPACEWAYS! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . . THE SILVER SURFER!

the UNIVERSE According to thanos

THE BATTLE RAGES, WARLOCK!

WE MUST JOIN THE FRAY BEFORE OUR COMRADES FALL.

PATIENCE, SURFER. ALL IN DUE TIME.

PART ONE

GENESIS

RON MARZ · WRITER
RON LIM · PENCILER
TOM CHRISTOPHER · INKER
KEN BRUZENAK · LETTERER
TOM VINCENT · COLORIST
CRAIG ANDERSON · EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO · CHIEF

THERE'S *FAR* TOO MUCH AT RISK FOR *PATIENCE.*

THE LONGER WE *WITHHOLD* OUR ATTACK, THE MORE *TIME* THANOS HAS TO *PREPARE* FOR IT.

OTHERS CARRY THE BATTLE NOW, AS I PLANNED.

OUR TIME WILL COME SOON ENOUGH.

PUT YOUR MIND *AT EASE,* FRIEND.

READY YOUR THOUGHTS FOR THE *COMING CONFLICT. MEDITATE* ON WHAT MUST BE DONE.

ONCE *WE* BEGIN, THERE WILL BE NO MARGIN FOR *ERROR.*

VERY WELL.

SURFER...

IT'S TIME.

SURFER.

I'M READY.

LET THANOS BEWARE.

THE *END* OF HIS MAD REIGN DRAWS NIGH.

PRAY THAT IT IS SO, SURFER.

ANY *OTHER* OUTCOME HERALDS THE *ANNIHILATION* OF ALL LIFE.

I *KNOW* THANOS OF OLD. HE WILL BE *SATISFIED* WITH NOTHING LESS.

THERE IS *NO PLACE* IN THE COSMOS FOR A *GOD* SUCH AS HE.

WE DRAW *CLOSE ENOUGH* TO STRIKE. PREPARE--

...IMPOSSIBLE...

HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO WRONG?

I'VE MADE A TRAGIC, FATAL MISCALCULATION.

I'D THOUGHT WE COULD **HOLD OUT** BY ASSAULTING THANOS ON ALL FRONTS.

MY PLAN WAS TO **ATTACK** WITH SHEER FORCE, BUT WIN VICTORY WITH **DECEPTION.**

THE SURFER WAS TO SNATCH THE **INFINITY GAUNTLET** FROM THE TITAN'S GRASP.

WITHOUT IT, THANOS COULD NOT HOPE TO **WITHSTAND** OUR ONSLAUGHT.

BUT OUR FORCES WERE **NOTHING** AGAINST HIS MIGHT.

EVEN BEINGS WHO ARE **NEAR GODS** THEMSELVES HAVE FALLEN.

I'VE LED EVERYONE TO A **SLAUGHTER.**

I HAVE ACCOMPLISHED **NOTHING,** EXCEPT ASSURE THE UNIVERSE'S **DESTRUCTION.**

MY ERROR HAS **DOOMED** ALL OF CREATION.

WHAT HOPE HAVE WE WHEN ALL OF OUR ALLIES HAVE PERISHED?

HOPE ITSELF IS OUR LONE REMAINING ALLY.

THANOS HAS WON NOTHING WHILE WE YET DRAW BREATH.

WHICH IS A SUBJECT I'LL ADDRESS MOMENTARILY.

JUST AS SOON AS I'M FINISHED HERE.

WELL, WELL.

ONE OF MY *OLDEST* FOES ACCOMPANIED BY MY *NEWEST*. HOW *APPROPRIATE*.

MATTERS COME *FULL CIRCLE* AS I PREPARE TO BRING THEM TO A *CONCLUSION*.

UNFORTUNATELY, I DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO *SAVOR* YOUR DEFEAT.

OMNIPOTENCE IS A BUSY BUSINESS...

...AND I HAVE A *UNIVERSE* TO DOMINATE.

YOU LED THIS EXERCISE IN FOLLY, DIDN'T YOU, WARLOCK? SENT THEM ALL TO THEIR DEATHS.

SO MANY GALLANT SOULS, SNUFFED OUT LIKE CANDLES BEFORE A STRONG WIND.

THEY DIED HORRIBLY, YOU KNOW.

SPARE ME YOUR BOASTS, BUTCHER.

LET US BATTLE WITHOUT IDLE CHATTER.

BATTLE?

WHERE DID YOU GET THE NOTION THERE WOULD BE A BATTLE?

SURELY YOU DON'T EXPECT ME TO SURRENDER.

YOU ARE WOEFULLY MISINFORMED, WARLOCK. WHATEVER YOU DO IS IMMATERIAL.

MY WILL IS SUPREME.

I WOULD DEARLY ENJOY BESTING YOU IN COMBAT.

FOR OLD TIMES' SAKE.

BUT PROLONGING THE INEVITABLE ON A MEANINGLESS WHIM ILL BECOMES A BEING OF MY STATURE.

SO THE SIMPLE END OF YOUR EXISTENCE WILL BE SUFFICIENT.

YOU'LL *LIKE* WHAT I HAVE IN *STORE* FOR YOU, ADAM.

IN FACT, I HAVE *YOU* TO THANK FOR IT.

YOU'RE *RANTING*, MADMAN.

AM I?

YOU'LL REMEMBER. I KNOW I DO.

FEELING MY FLESH GROW *STONY* AND *COLD* AT YOUR HANDS, *

I *REMEMBER*.

THIS *SHOULDN'T* BE THE WAY IT *ENDS*.

*MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE ANNUAL # 2.

...NOT... LIKE... THISSSSSS...

I'M *AFRAID SO*, ADAM. NOT MUCH OF A *HERO'S DEATH*, IS IT?

BUT YOU KNOW *HEROES*...

...THEY TURN OUT TO BE SO *FRAGILE*.

DUST TO DUST.

GOODBYE, ADAM.

YOU ONCE CALLED YOURSELF "GOD-SLAYER." HOW HOLLOW THAT CLAIM RINGS NOW, EH?

OVERCONFIDENCE WAS YOUR UNDOING, OF COURSE. HOW COULD YOU TRULY EXPECT TO DEFEAT ME?

THE MOMENT I POSSESSED ALL SIX INFINITY GEMS, I BECAME ONE WITH IRREVOCABLE DESTINY.

YOU WERE A FOOL, ADAM WARLOCK, AND YOU MET A FOOL'S END!

THANOS!

YOUR DEMENTIA KNOWS NO BOUNDS!

IF I MUST BATTLE YOU ALONE, SO BE IT!

DEMENTED? ME?

ON THE CONTRARY, I CONSIDER MYSELF QUITE RATIONAL.

YOU ARE THE MADMAN IF YOU FAIL TO REALIZE THE ABSOLUTE FUTILITY OF DEFIANCE.

SUCH STUPIDITY COST WARLOCK HIS LIFE.

DON'T LET THE SAME FATE BEFALL YOU.

WUNNNGH!!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH MY BOARD?

SIMPLY TRANSFORMED IT INTO THE MANACLES THAT RESTRAIN YOU.

YOU WON'T BE NEEDING IT ANYMORE.

I, HOWEVER, HAVE NEED OF YOU.

DO NOT SEEK TO TAUNT ME, THANOS. IF YOUR INTENTION IS TO SLAY ME, BE DONE WITH IT.

I'LL GIVE YOU NO PLEASURE BY BEGGING.

TRULY, SURFER, I DO NEED YOU. BUT I CAN UNDERSTAND YOUR SKEPTICISM.

WHAT COULD THANOS, WHO HAS ACHIEVED HIS DEEPEST DESIRES, WANT FROM THE NOBLE SILVER SURFER?

I AM MASTER OF ALL CREATION.

I ONCE WORSHIPPED MISTRESS DEATH. NOW IT IS SHE WHO WORSHIPS ME.

ALL MY FOES HAVE *FALLEN*. MY SUPREMACY IS *UNCHALLENGED*.

A *NEW* AGE AWAITS MY DESIGN.

YOU ARE THE *LAST LINK* TO THE *OLD ORDER*, SURFER.

AS SUCH, IT WILL BE *YOUR DUTY* TO RECORD *ALL* THAT I AM, FROM MY *HUMBLE* BEGINNINGS TO MY ASCENSION TO *GODHOOD*.

EVERY *SUPREME BEING* NEEDS A *BOOK*.

YOU WILL BE THE SCRIBE TO WRITE *MINE*.

EVERY THOUGHT, EVERY DEED--

UM...

...YOUR *PARDON*, GREAT THANOS.

SO...WHAT COULD THANOS *POSSIBLY* WANT OF THE SILVER SURFER?

BUT PERHAPS ALLOWING THE SILVER SURFER TO *LIVE* WOULD NOT BE IN YOUR *BEST INTEREST*.

HE IS *QUITE* POWERFUL, AND CERTAINLY BEARS YOU *GREAT* ANIMOSITY.

THERE IS SOME *SLIGHT* POTENTIAL HIS PRESENCE COULD PROVE... *DISRUPTIVE*.

AND, OF COURSE, HE WAS ALSO *MY* MOST HATED ADVERSARY.

HIS *REMOVAL* WOULD BE A *GENEROUS* GESTURE OF GRATITUDE TO *ME*, YOUR MOST...

...FAITHFUL...

...SERVANT?

HOW DARE YOU?

SUCH TEMERITY.

YOU HAVE *QUESTIONED* ME A FINAL TIME, MEPHISTO.

I WILL TOLERATE YOUR *INSOLENCE* NO LONGER.

IT WAS...

...ONLY...

...A SUGGESTION.

CONSIDER YOUR SERVICE AT AN *END!*

YOU SLEW HIM WITH *EASE*.

CORRECT.

MEPHISTO *DESERVED* NO LESS. BUT HE WAS *RIGHT* IN ONE RESPECT.

YOU *CANNOT* BE ALLOWED TO *RETAIN* YOUR COSMIC POWER. I SHALL HAVE TO *STRIP* YOU OF IT, MAKING YOU AS *MORTAL* AS YOU ONCE WERE.

NO!

IT IS PART OF MY *BEING!* I WOULD SOONER *DIE* THAN SURRENDER IT!

I HAVE NOT *GIVEN* YOU THAT CHOICE.

IT WAS *YOUR ERROR* TO FREE ME, TITAN. SUFFER THE *CONSEQUENCES*.

BE MY GUEST.

SPPFFT*

RESTORE MY POWERS, THANOS!

I WANT NO PART OF YOUR NEW AGE. MEET ME AS A WARRIOR.

NO.

I THINK NOT.

YOU HAVE A ROLE TO FULFILL IN THE COMING MILLENNIUM.

YOU SHALL BE WITNESS TO ALL MY GLORIES. IT BEGINS HERE.

LET THERE BE LIGHT!

WELL?

HOW DO YOU *LIKE* IT?

THE *PLANET* I HAVE CREATED IS *NECRONOS.*

IT IS A *FITTING* WORLD FROM WHICH TO *RULE* CREATION.

FOREVER MORE IT IS THE *CENTER* OF THE UNIVERSE, AS *I AM* THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE.

Hmmmm...

I SUPPOSE ALL CAPITALS SHOULD HAVE A *POPULATION.* SHALL WE SAY...

...ONE BILLION?

WHY?

WHY WOULD YOU, WHO SO LOVES *DEATH,* BE MOVED TO CREATE SO MUCH *LIFE?*

TRUE, IN MY UNTAMED YOUTH I PLEDGED MY LOVE TO MISTRESS DEATH.

LIKE ANY SUITOR, I STROVE TO WIN HER FAVOR BY SHOWERING HER WITH GIFTS.

I SOUGHT TO GIVE HER THE STARS THEMSELVES.

I WAS SO IMPETUOUS. I DID NOT COMPREHEND THE TRUE NATURE OF DEATH.

HAD I SUCCEEDED IN SNUFFING OUT THE STARS, AND THUS ENDED ALL LIFE, WHAT WOULD REMAIN FOR MY MISTRESS.

WHAT MORE COULD I OFFER HER?

I NOW UNDERSTAND THERE MUST BE LIFE IN ORDER TO ASSURE DEATH'S CONTINUED EXISTENCE.

ACCOMPANY ME. I HAVE WONDERS TO SHOW YOU.

WHERE HAVE YOU *TAKEN* ME?

SOMEPLACE ON NECRONOS. A VERY *SACRED* PLACE.

GREAT COSMOS! THIS IS AN *OBSCENITY!*

MIND YOUR LANGUAGE. THIS IS A *HOLY TEMPLE.*

MISTRESS DEATH IS *HONORED* HERE.

YOU SEE, I HAVE SPAWNED *LIFE* THAT THERE MIGHT BE *DEATH...*

...CONSTANT, INESCAPABLE...

...*DEATH.*

IT IS MY *GREATEST* ACHIEVEMENT. HERE MY *TRUE LOVE* IS PROVIDED WITH *UNENDING SACRIFICE.* EVERY BEING ON NECRONOS IS *BORN* TO *DIE.*

THIS PLANET IS *MADE* IN MY OWN *IMAGE.* ALL THAT *TRANSPIRES* HERE IS A REFLECTION OF MY *PASSION* FOR DEATH.

IT IS THE *ULTIMATE* NIHILISM.

IT'S THE PRODUCT OF A *SICK,* UNCHECKED MIND!

DO *ALL* OF THIS WORLD'S INHABITANTS EVENTUALLY FIND THEMSELVES *HERE?*

HERE.

NO.

NOT NECESSARILY.

THERE ARE A THOUSAND SUCH HOUSES ON THIS WORLD ALONE!

...NO... NO... NO... NO... NO...

IN TWO WEEKS: **PART 2** (AND YOU THOUGHT IT COULDN'T GET ANY WORSE!)

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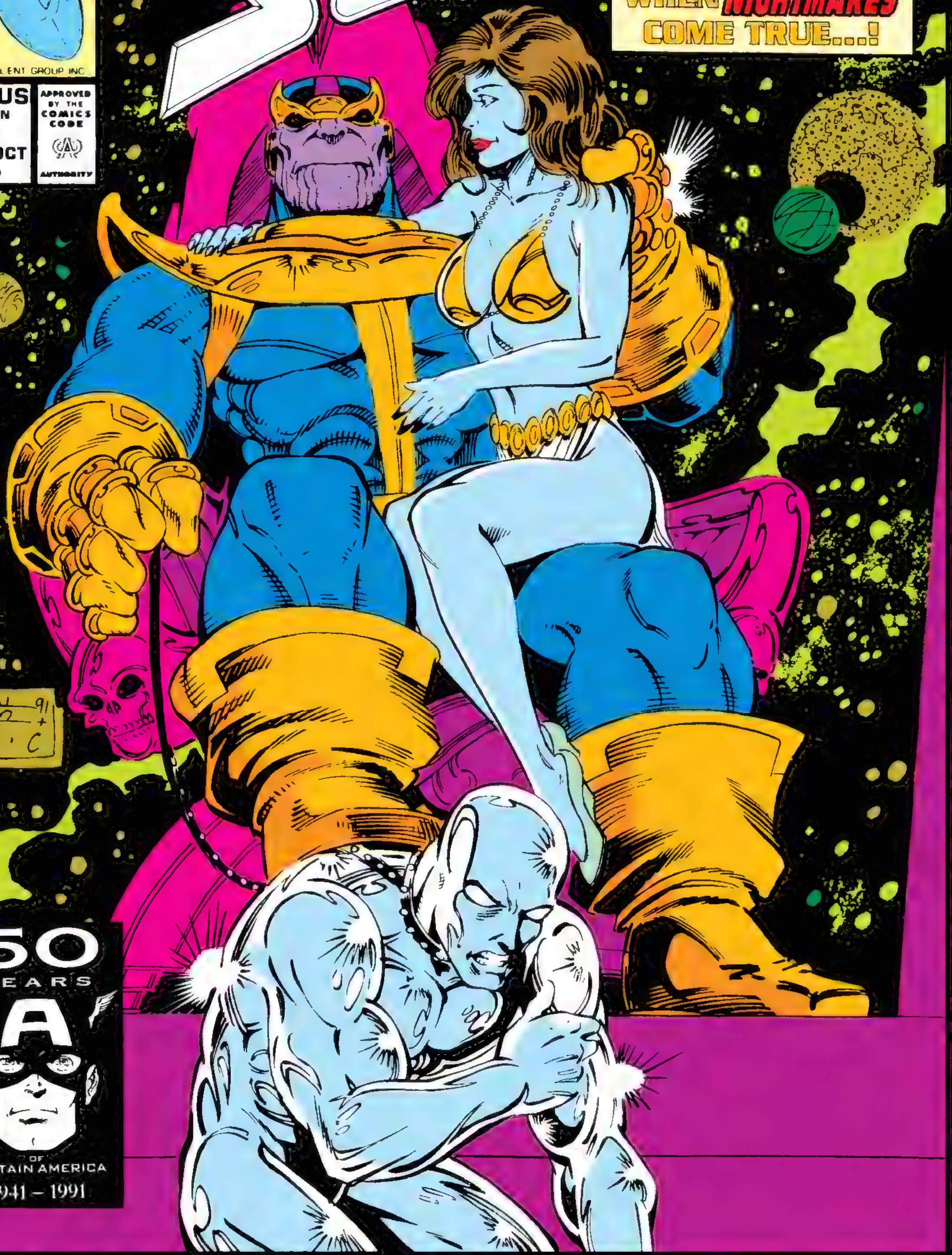
THE SILVER SURFER®

& INFINITY GAUNTLET CROSSOVER

WHEN NIGHTMARES COME TRUE...!



Don Jim 91
t·k·C

50 YEARS OF CAPTAIN AMERICA
1941 – 1991

The Universe According to Thanos

part 2:

exodus

ALAS, POOR WRETCH.

I KNEW HIM NOT AT ALL.

RON MARZ
WRITER
RON LIM & GAVIN CURTIS
PENCILERS
TOM CHRISTOPHER
INKER
KEN BRUZENAK
LETTERER
TOM VINCENT
COLORIST
CRAIG ANDERSON
EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO
CHIEF

BUT HE *SERVED* HIS PURPOSE WELL.

AS DO *ALL* MY SUBJECTS.

SOMETHING *TROUBLES* YOU, MY MOST HUMBLE SCRIBE.

PLEASE...*SPEAK YOUR MIND.* I AM *NOTHING* IF NOT AN *ATTENTIVE* GOD.

I AM THE SOLE ARBITER OF WHAT CONSTITUTES MADNESS. ALL IN THE UNIVERSE IS AS I WISH IT TO BE.

THERE *IS* NO MADNESS.

THERE IS ONLY *MY REALITY.*

THE DEPTH OF YOUR *CRUELTY* APPALLS ME STILL, THANOS.

BETTER *ALL* OF CREATION HAD BEEN *DESTROYED* THAN SUFFER THIS *MADNESS* YOU HAVE INFLICTED UPON IT.

THEN I ASK YOU AGAIN, *FREE ME* FROM BEING A PART OF IT.

IT IS UNSEEMLY FOR A *SERVANT* TO IMPLORE HIS MASTER. IT IS THE *MASTER* WHO COMMANDS THE SERVANT.

YOU WOULD *DO WELL* TO REMEMBER WHAT AN *HONOR* I HAVE BESTOWED IN *GRANTING* YOU A POSITION IN MY KINGDOM.

YOU HAVE *MUCH* TO BE THANKFUL FOR, SILVER SURFER:

THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE *WORSHIPS* ME, AND *YOU* ALONE ARE ALLOWED TO SIT BY MY HAND AND *BASK* IN MY GRANDEUR.

I NEVER *ASKED* FOR SUCH AN "*HONOR.*"

NO, YOU DIDN'T.

AND YOU ARE *UNWORTHY* OF IT, OF COURSE. BUT I DEIGNED TO *GIVE* IT TO YOU NONETHELESS.

I HAVE REMADE *ALL THAT EXISTS* TO SUIT MY SENSIBILITIES AND *HONOR* MY SWEET CONSORT, *MISTRESS DEATH.*

SUCH A DEED WARRANTS *PRESERVATION* FOR POSTERITY.

THAT IS YOUR *DUTY.*

YOU ARE THE AUTHOR OF MY *BIBLE.*

BUSY YOURSELF, SURFER.

DO THAT WHICH I HAVE SET BEFORE YOU.

He wants me to record all the **insanity**, all the **debauchery** of which he is so **proud**.

He wants me to **glorify** everything that is the **anti-thesis** of all I hold dear. And what choice do I have?

Since Thanos attained control of the **Infinity Gems**, he is the master of **time**, **space**, **power**, the **mind**, the **soul** and **reality**.

He wants me to **sing the praises** of the Lord God Thanos.

He could **bend me** to his will as easily as I swat an **insect**. So I am forced to **commemorate** all I have seen...

So I am forced to **commemorate** all I have seen...

I HAVE WITNESSED THE COMPLETE ANNIHILATION OF ALL THOSE WITH EVEN THE SLIGHTEST HOPE OF DEFEATING THANOS, AS WELL AS THE CREATION OF THIS THRONE-WORLD, NECRONOS.

THE TITAN IS UNCHALLENGED, A DEPRAVED EGO GONE WILD IN UNIVERSAL DOMINATION. THE KREE EMPIRE FELL ALMOST INSTANTLY, CRUSHED UNDER THANOS'S IMPLACABLE HEEL.

THE SKRULLS MADE USE OF THEIR SHAPE-SHIFTING ABILITIES AND OFFERED CONSIDERABLY MORE RESISTANCE. THEY LASTED A FULL TWO HOURS.

THANOS DESTROYED THE IMPERIAL GUARD OF THE SHI'AR TO HUMOR HIMSELF, AND CONQUERED THAT VAST EMPIRE AS AN AFTERTHOUGHT.

THE SPLENDOR OF MY OWN HOME-WORLD, ZENN-LA, HAS BEEN LAID WASTE. OF THE FATE OF MY LOVE, SHALLA-BAL, I KNOW NOTHING. PERHAPS THAT IS BEST.

EARTH, FOR SO LONG MY ADOPTED HOME, SEEMS RESERVED FOR PARTICULAR TORMENT. WRENCHED FROM ITS LIFE-SUSTAINING ORBIT, THE PLANET IS SUFFERING THROUGH A BRUTAL ICE AGE.

OF COURSE, CERTAIN AREAS REMAIN TEMPERATE AT THANOS'S BEHEST, SO THAT HE MIGHT CONTINUE TO DISPENSE DEATH.

IT'S THE SAME ON EARTH AS IN ALL CORNERS OF THE UNIVERSE. THANOS'S TEMPLES ARE SLAUGHTER-HOUSES, AND HIS PRIESTS BUTCHERS. ALL OF CREATION TREMBLES, FOR GOD IS TRULY MAD.

I have seen sights that should have torn my sanity asunder. This "new age" sickens my soul, but I am compelled to endure. I survive...

...though for how much longer, I know not.

SNAP

YOU ARE MAKING A NUISANCE OF YOURSELF, LACKEY.

MY POWER IS INFINITE, MY PATIENCE IS NOT.

I GAVE YOU A TASK, AND YET YOU INTERRUPT ME.

WHY?

I WANT NO MORE OF YOUR DERANGED REIGN.

THE SILVER SURFER WAS NEVER A SLAVE BEFORE YOU CROWNED YOURSELF ALMIGHTY, AND I REFUSE TO BE ONE NOW.

FIND ANOTHER TO MAKE A RECORD OF THIS HERESY.

I REFUSE.

HOW UTTERLY HEROIC OF YOU.

YOUR *DESIRES*, HOWEVER, ARE OF *NO CONSEQUENCE* TO ME.

YOU ARE *MINE* TO DO WITH AS I SEE FIT. YOU WILL *SERVE* ME AS LONG AS I WISH IT, AND DO SO *WITHOUT COMPLAINT.*

OTHERWISE, I SHALL MAKE YOUR EXISTENCE *VERY UNPLEASANT.*

WHY NOT SIMPLY *SLAY ME* INSTEAD OF ENGAGING IN THESE *INFANTILE THREATS?*

OBLIVION WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO SERVING THE LIKES OF *YOU,* MADMAN.

TSK!

SUCH *INGRATITUDE* PAINS ME GREATLY. THERE ARE BILLIONS *DYING* TO WORSHIP ME, AND *YOU*--WHO I WOULD HAVE AS MY *PRIME ACOLYTE*-- REFUSE ME.

TRULY TRAGIC.

SPARE ME YOUR--

IT WOULD LIKELY *SURPRISE* YOU TO KNOW THAT I HOLD YOU VERY CLOSE TO MY *HEART,* SURFER.

YOU ARE THE *SOLE SURVIVOR* OF A BYGONE ERA. YOU INSPIRE ME TO RECALL MY *FORMER,* MORTAL *SELF.*

IT IS IMPORTANT I REMEMBER *THAT* THANOS, FOR IT IS *HE* WHO MADE ME WHAT I AM *TODAY.*

IF NOT *YOU,* WHO COULD I *DEPEND* UPON?

CERTAINLY NOT *THESE* PITIFUL CREATURES.

SO YOU SEE, YOU'RE *UNIQUELY* INVALUABLE.

A *NECESSITY.*

YOU *WILL* SERVE ME. WHETHER YOU DO SO WITH A MINIMUM OF *AGONY* IS *YOUR* DECISION.

HAD YOU NOT *STOLEN* MY POWER COSMIC, YOU WOULD BE UNABLE TO FORCE MY *OBEDIENCE.*

BUT I *DID.*

AND I *CAN.*

SO I *WILL.*

HAD I NOT *RELIEVED* YOU OF YOUR POWER COSMIC, YOU WOULDN'T BE SUCH AN *AGREEABLE* SERVANT.

YOU MIGHT EVEN BE *FOOL* ENOUGH TO OPPOSE ME.

YOU'RE MUCH MORE *PLIABLE* THIS WAY. MUCH MORE *ENTERTAINING*.

"Being a slave, what should I do but tend
Upon the hours and times of your desire?
I have no precious time at all to spend
Nor services to do, till you require."

I HAVE GIVEN YOU A *ROLE* IN MY GRAND SCHEME.

YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO *FULFILL* IT WITH A *SMILE*.

BACK SO SOON, SURFER?

UNFORTUNATE.

I ALWAYS FIND MENTAL CRUELTY SO EXHILARATING.

PERHAPS ANOTHER TIME. AT THE MOMENT, YOUR TASK AWAITS.

I TRUST THERE WILL BE NO MORE DISOBEDIENCE?

...NO, THANOS... NO...

Let him believe he has broken me.

He pays me no heed, **confident** of his mastery. But Thanos grows **slothful** on his throne.

He attends to his **consort**, for whom he attained his **godhood** and created this hell.

All this **suffering** in order to sate one **deviant** soul's unholy **fixation** with Death.

TO REMAIN A PARTY TO THIS OBSCENITY-- EVEN AN UNWILLING ONE--IS CONTRARY TO ALL I BELIEVE. PERHAPS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY EXISTENCE, I MUST BOW TO OVERWHELMING ODDS.

FACED WITH A LIFETIME OF BENDING TO THANOS' WILL, OR BEING FREED FROM THIS SERVITUDE...

...I CHOOSE NOBLE OBLIVION.

HM?

NO!

FOOL! YOU EXPECT TO *ESCAPE* ME SO EASILY?

SO. *THIS* IS THE MANNER IN WHICH YOU ATTEMPT TO *THWART* MY AUTHORITY.

YOU SEEK *SANCTUARY* IN THE ARMS OF *DEATH*, DESPITE THE KNOWLEDGE SHE IS MY *MISTRESS*.

I BELIEVED YOU WORTHY OF *BETTER*, SURFER.

I AM MASTER OF *ALL* THINGS, *INCLUDING* DEATH, AND SHE HAS *NO CHOICE* BUT TO DO MY BIDDING.

YOU MUST HAVE *REALIZED* THIS.

THIS *PITIFUL* ATTEMPT AT DEFIANCE WAS A *FAILURE* BEFORE ITS INCEPTION.

THE ONLY THING YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED IS TO INCUR MY *WRATH.*

THERE IS *NO* ESCAPE.

NOT FOR *YOU.* NOT *NOW.*

NOT EVER.

YOU HAVEN'T EVEN *BEGUN* TO SUFFER.

YOUR ACTIONS WON'T SERVE TO *END* YOUR LIFE, SURFER.

YOU'VE ONLY *PROLONGED* AND *SHARPENED* THE AGONY I HAVE IN STORE FOR YOU.

YOU WILL BE BETTER ACQUAINTED WITH *PAIN* THAN ANY BEING WHO HAS EVER *LIVED*.

AND I'M GOING TO **ENJOY** IT!

NEVER DISOBEY ME!

NEVER!

NEVER!

NEVER!

huh

huff

huff

huff

never...

NEVER DISOBEY ME...

I'LL BREAK YOUR SPIRIT YET, SURFER.

BUT FIRST I'LL HAVE TO PUT YOU BACK TOGETHER.

WHICH APPEARS AT THIS POINT TO BE RATHER A CONSIDERABLE TASK.

PERHAPS I GAVE MY TEMPER TOO MUCH REIN.

YOU'RE A MESS.

BUT NO MATTER. IF *RESURRECTION* IS WITHIN MY SCOPE, THEN A FEW *REPAIRS* ARE JUST AS SIMPLY ACCOMPLISHED.

MINE IS THE POWER OF *LIFE ITSELF*. I WILL *REMAKE* YOU AS A *PUPPETEER* CRAFTS HIS *MARIONETTE*.

I'LL ALSO *RECTIFY* A PREVIOUS, ILL-ADVISED DECISION ON MY PART, IN *STRIPPING* YOU OF YOUR POWER COSMIC AND THUS YOUR *INVULNERABILITY*...

...I MADE *POSSIBLE* THIS SLIGHT *AFFRONT* OF YOURS. I CANNOT PERMIT SUCH *BEHAVIOR* AGAIN.

SO I WILL RESTORE YOUR *PETTY* MIGHT, MAKING IT *IMPOSSIBLE* FOR YOU TO INFLICT *HARM* UPON YOURSELF.

NO... MORE...

I SHALL BE A PART OF THIS INSANITY *NO MORE*.

MIND YOUR *TONGUE*, MONGREL. I CAN BEGIN YOUR *PUNISHMENT* WITH ITS *REMOVAL*.

NOT WITHOUT A *STRUGGLE.*

I *TRUSTED* YOU WOULD *RAISE* ME FROM THE DEAD AND *RESTORE* MY POWER IN THE PROCESS.

INDEED.

LET US.

YOUR LACK OF *FORESIGHT* HAS PROVIDED ME WITH THE MEANS TO ONCE AGAIN *OPPOSE* YOU. NOW LET US SEE IF YOU ARE TRULY *"ALL-POWERFUL."*

THEN LET IT BEGIN!

YOU ATTEMPT THE *UNTHINKABLE*, THE *IMPOSSIBLE*. YOU HAVE *NO HOPE* OF BESTING ME, SURFER.

ALL I HAVE IS HOPE. AND IT IS *ENOUGH.*

THEN I *PITY* YOU.

SURFER?

SURFER?

IT'S ALMOST TIME. ARE YOU-

ADAM! WHY AREN'T YOU-

OH.

I... I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO STARTLE YOU.

NO, IT'S ALL RIGHT. ARE YOU... ALL RIGHT?

YES, THANK YOU.

MY MIND... WANDERED... BRIEFLY, BUT I'M PREPARED FOR WHAT'S TO COME.

ARE YOU CERTAIN? YOU LOOK RATHER DISTRAUGHT.

IT WAS NOTHING.

NOTHING WORTH MENTIONING.

AND BEST FORGOTTEN.

AS YOU WISH.

I KNOW.

THE TIME IS ALMOST UPON US. WE CANNOT AFFORD FAILURE-THE CONSEQUENCES ARE UNIMAGINABLE.

ON MY SIGNAL THEN...

NEXT ISSUE: FOLLOWING THE EVENTS OF **INFINITY GAUNTLET #4** NEXT WEEK--

THE **SURFER** SUFFERS THE WRATH OF **THANOS** IN: **INQUISITION** ON SALE IN TWO WEEKS!

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THE SILVER SURFER

& INFINITY GAUNTLET CROSSOVER

REALITY CHECK

TO SAVE HIS PLANET, NORRIN RADD SURRENDERED HIS FREEDOM TO BECOME HERALD TO THE WORLD-DEVOURING GALACTUS. COATED WITH GALACTIC GLAZE, GIVEN A SURFBOARD OBEYING HIS MENTAL COMMANDS, AND GRANTED THE POWER COSMIC, HE NOW SOARS THE UNIVERSE A SHINING SENTINEL OF THE SPACEWAYS! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . . THE SILVER SURFER!

NOW.

SOMEWHERE ELSE.

SO CLOSE.

HOW COULD I HAVE LET SUCH AN *INSIGNIFICANT BEING* COME SO CLOSE TO ENDING MY REIGN?

SO CLOSE!

HOW COULD I HAVE COME SO CLOSE AND *FAILED*?

I HAVE *SNUFFED OUT* WHAT LITTLE HOPE THE UNIVERSE HELD.

OMNIPOTENCE OBVIOUSLY BREEDS *INDOLENCE*.

WHAT JUST TRANSPIRED* SHOULD *NEVER* HAVE BEEN ALLOWED. ONLY A *FOOL* FAILS TO *LEARN* FROM EXPERIENCE.

*SEE INFINITY GAUNTLET #4 --CROSSOVER CRAZY CRAIG

AND I AM *NOT* A FOOL.

Inquisition

AAAHHHGGH!

RON MARZ · RON LIM & JAMES BROCK · TOM CHRISTOPHER

WRITER — PENCILERS — INKER

KEN BRUZENAK - TOM VINCENT - CRAIG ANDERSON - TOM DeFALCO

LETTERER — COLORIST — EDITOR — CHIEF

THANOS WASTED NO TIME IN SEEKING REVENGE, THOUGH I'M BAFFLED AS TO THE NATURE OF HIS ATTACK.

APPARENTLY I AM UNHARMED, WHICH IS AN UNCHARACTERISTIC GESTURE ON THE TITAN'S PART.

I WOULD EXPECT FURTHER AGGRESSION, BUT THANOS APPEARS OTHERWISE OCCUPIED.

I MUST RETURN AND ADD MY STRENGTH TO THE BATTLE THAT NOW RAGES.

WAIT... SUDDENLY I FEEL STRANGE. SOMETHING'S... NOT RIGHT.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?

ADAM... MY BOARD... EVERYTHING GONE.

WHAT IS THIS PLACE? I DON'T KNOW WHERE I AM.

I CAN'T CONTROL MY OWN BODY.

IS THIS MY FATE AT THANOS'S HANDS?

AM I TO PERISH IN MADNESS?

I'M BACK TO NORMAL. *EVERYTHING'S* BACK TO NORMAL.

THEN THE ONLY *QUESTION* REMAINING TO BE *ANSWERED* IS...

WHERE AM I?

BETTER YET, HOW DO I *LEAVE* THIS PLACE?

I CANNOT SENSE MY *BOARD* ANYWHERE NEAR, SO I MUST ASSUME IT DID NOT *ACCOMPANY* ME TO THIS STRANGE LOCALE.

INDEED, IT DID NOT...

...BECAUSE YOU WON'T BE NEEDING IT HERE.

THE VERY *DOORS* THEMSELVES ADDRESS ME. STRANGER AND STRANGER.

YOUR GRASP OF THE *OBVIOUS* IS COMMENDABLE...

...BUT *VOCALIZING* IT IS AN *IRRITATING* WASTE OF TIME.

I MUST ASK YOU NOT TO *DAWDLE*, AS THE SCHEDULE IS VERY *BUSY* RIGHT NOW.

SO IF YOU WOULD PLEASE *ENTER*... THE SOONER WE *BEGIN*, THE BETTER.

AS YOU WISH, CONSIDERING MY *OPTIONS* SEEM TO BE OTHERWISE *LIMITED*.

BUT KNOW THAT THE SILVER SURFER IS *PREPARED* FOR ANY *SURPRISES* YOU MIGHT HAVE IN STORE.

WHOEVER YOU MIGHT BE.

THAT'S WHAT *EVERYONE* TELLS ME. BUT IT'S *RARELY* TRUE.

NOW TELL ME, WERE YOU PREPARED FOR *THIS*?

WELL?

MM.

I DIDN'T *THINK* SO.

BUT DON'T *WORRY* ABOUT IT. NEARLY *EVERYONE* GETS A SURPRISE WHEN THEY WALK THROUGH MY DOORS.

I'VE TOLD YOU *ONCE*...THE SILVER SURFER IS *PREPARED* FOR WHATEVER YOU CARE TO ATTEMPT.

YEAH. HEARD YOU THE *FIRST* TIME.

BY THE WAY WOULD YOU MIND *NOT* REFERRING TO YOURSELF IN THE *THIRD PERSON*? IT'S *RUDE*, AND I FIND IT EXTREMELY *GRATING*.

I *APOLOGIZE* IF YOU FIND MY MANNERS *LACKING*.

BUT YOURS ARE *ALSO* REMISS--I WOULD ALSO KNOW *WHO* YOU ARE, AND WHAT MANNER OF PLACE *THIS* IS.

OF COURSE.

THE *LATTER* INQUIRY FIRST--YOU HAVE JUST CROSSED THE THRESHOLD OF THE *DOORS OF PERCEPTION*, AND ENTERED INTO THE *HALL OF ABSOLUTES*.

I MYSELF AM KNOWN BY *MANY* NAMES, BUT YOU MAY *ADDRESS ME* BY THE MOST COMMON.

VIRTUAL REALITY, AT YOUR SERVICE.

I'VE SPANNED THE *UNIVERSE*, BUT YOU ARE *UNKNOWN* TO ME.

I'M UNFAMILIAR TO YOU, BUT NOT UNKNOWN.

YOU PERSIST IN RIDDLES.

I WISH ONLY TO KNOW HOW I CAN RETURN WHENCE I CAME. I MUST TAKE PART IN THE BATTLE AGAINST THANOS SO THAT THE UNIVERSE MIGHT LIVE.

AH, YES. THANOS. A VERY INTRIGUING CREATURE.

SUCH EXTERNAL NARCISSISM AND SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS, BUT UNDERNEATH, WHO WOULD HAVE GUESSED?

HIS DISPLAY HERE IS VERY INTERESTING.

THANOS IS OBVIOUSLY RESPONSIBLE FOR DELIVERING ME HERE.

WHATEVER HIS REASONS, I HAVE NO WISH TO TROUBLE YOU FURTHER.

IF YOU'LL SHOW ME OUT--

THE MANNER OF YOUR ARRIVAL IS INCONSEQUENTIAL.

YOU WOULD HAVE COME HERE EVENTUALLY. SOME TIME, SOME WAY.

AND I CAN'T PERMIT YOU TO LEAVE BEFORE WE'RE FINISHED.

I CAN SEE YOU AREN'T YET AWARE OF THE SITUATION.

THIS IS WHY YOU'RE HERE. ONCE YOU HAVE COME TO THIS POINT, THERE IS NO TURNING BACK.

FROM WHAT?

WHAT AWAITS US IN THE CORRIDOR?

YOUR LIFE. THAT WHICH IS PARAMOUNT TO YOU.

ONCE YOU CROSS THE THRESHOLD OF PERCEPTION, ALL IS LAID BARE.

THIS IS THE *STOREHOUSE* FOR ALL THE TRUTHS, HALF-TRUTH AND LIES OF THE UNIVERSE. TRUE *REALITY* IS IN THE EYE OF THE PERCEIVER.

ALL BEINGS EVENTUALLY COME HERE, TO MY ENDLESS HALLS, TO EXAMINE THEIR *PERCEPTIONS*. SOME *SEARCH*. OTHERS ARRIVE BY *HAPPENSTANCE*.

THEY COME IN DREAMS, IN MADNESS, IN LUCIDITY.

MANY FAIL TO FIND THE *COURAGE* TO CONFRONT WHAT AWAITS. MANY *MORE* FACE THEIR FEARS AND *BECOME TRAPPED* BY THEM.

YOUR FATE REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

THANOS USED HIS MASTERY OF *REALITY* TO DEPOSIT YOU HERE, PERHAPS THINKING TO DESTROY YOU.

MY WILL IS FAR TOO *STRONG* TO BE BROKEN BY HIS MACHINATIONS.

POSSIBLY.

BUT I AM THE KEEPER OF THIS PLACE. I KNOW WHAT LIES AHEAD. AND I WOULD NOT WISH TO TREAD YOUR PATH.

THIS IS BY FAR THE *STRONGEST* CHILDHOOD MEMORY.

FINDING HER MUST HAVE BEEN TREMENDOUSLY *TRAUMATIC*. MY CONDOLENCES.

MOTHER?

WHY DID YOU DO THIS?

MAMA?

MOTHER! NOOOOO!

THIS CAN'T BE TRUE! I DON'T *WANT* IT TO BE TRUE!

BUT IT EXISTS WITHIN YOUR *MIND.* SO IT EXISTS *HERE.*

THAT IS THE *NATURE* OF MY REALM.

WE WILL WITNESS THE IMAGES THAT WEIGH *MOST HEAVILY* UPON YOU, THE *MEMORIES* THAT *SHAPE* YOUR BEING.

YOU CAN'T *FORCE* ME TO SEE ANYTHING MORE! I DON'T WANT TO GO ON!

YOU HAVE *NO CHOICE.*

THIS WOULD BE SHORTLY AFTER YOUR MOTHER'S *DEATH.*

I FIND THE ZENN-LAVIAN *CUSTOM* OF *PAIRING* A GRIEVING CHILD WITH A *COMPANION* -- IN ORDER TO *ASSUAGE* THE PAIN -- QUITE EXTRAORDINARY.

NORRIN, I WANT YOU TO MEET *SHALLA BAL.*

SHE'S GOING TO BE YOUR *PLAYMATE* FOR A WHILE.

DO YOU UNDER-STAND?

PLEASED TO... MEET YOU.

NORRIN?

NORRIN RADD, I *WANT* YOU TO SAY HELLO.

IT'S ALL RIGHT.

BUT I'D JUST LOST MY *MOTHER.*

I WAS ONLY A *CHILD.*

OF COURSE.

CHILDREN *CAN BE SO CRUEL* WITHOUT EVEN REALIZING IT.

ADULTS ARE INFINITELY MORE UNDERSTANDING.

THERE'S JUST NO *ROOM* IN MY SCHEDULE FOR *IDLE PURSUITS.*

MY WORK *HAS* TO TAKE *PRECEDENT.*

I'M SORRY.

I CAN'T AFFORD ANY DELAYS IN MY *RESEARCH.*

I'LL *CALL* YOU.

YOU *WON'T!*

YOU CAN'T *SPARE* THE TIME!

NOTHING MATTERS TO YOU EXCEPT YOUR *PRECIOUS SCIENCE.*

BUT YOU *PROMISED* THIS TIME.

WE *NEVER* SEE EACH OTHER. YOU'RE ALWAYS *TOO BUSY.*

LEAST OF ALL THE WOMAN WHO *LOVES* YOU.

IT WAS SO HARD TO MAKE HER UNDERSTAND.

IT WASN'T THAT I DIDN'T LOVE HER. I JUST HAD OTHER THINGS THAT WERE...

...MORE IMPORTANT.

YES. WOMEN ARE SO UNREASONABLE.

BUT SHALLA-BAL STOOD BY YOU WHEN YOU NEEDED HER MOST.

WE PAY FINAL RESPECTS TO JARTRAN RADD AND INTER HIS BODY TO THE AGES.

THOSE GATHERED HERE DO HIM HONOR.

I DARESAY FEW OTHERS DID.

MY FATHER'S SUICIDE WAS... DIFFICULT FOR ME TO ACCEPT.

SHALLA BAL WAS A GREAT COMFORT.

AND DID YOU REPAY HER IN KIND?

DID YOU MAKE HER THE WIFE SHE LONGED TO BE?

NO.

YOUR TRANSFORMATION INTO THE *SILVER SURFER* AT THE HANDS OF GALACTUS FOREVER *SEPARATED* YOU FROM SHALLA-BAL.

AND BROKE HER HEART.

IT WAS THE *ONLY WAY* TO SAVE OUR WORLD.

IT WAS THE *ONLY DECISION* I COULD MAKE.

I UNDERSTAND. JUST TAKE ME *WITH* YOU.

THAT'S *ALL* I WANT. IT'S ALL I *EVER* WANTED.

IT WOULD BE *IMPOSSIBLE.*

I MUST SERVE MY NEW MASTER *ALONE.*

FAREWELL, SHALLA-BAL.

NOT A VERY *COMPASSIONATE* LOVER, WERE YOU?

YOU WERE AN *EXEMPLARY* HERALD, THOUGH.

YOUR BIDDING IS DONE, GALACTUS.

I HAVE LOCATED A WORLD *SUITABLE* FOR YOUR HUNGERS.

WELL DONE *INDEED*, HERALD. THIS SPHERE'S ENERGIES SHALL *REPLENISH* ME FULLY.

MY *COMPLIMENTS* ON YOUR SELECTION.

OF COURSE, GALACTUS.

HOW MANY TIMES DID YOU STAND IDLY BY WHILE YOUR MASTER *SNUFFED OUT* WHOLE CIVILIZATIONS.

QUITE OFTEN, I'D BE WILLING TO WAGER.

BUT...GALACTUS TAMPERED WITH MY MIND...

...I WAS NOT MYSELF.

NOW I DEDICATE MYSELF TO *DEFENDING* INNOCENTS.

A CURIOUS CHOICE OF WORDS.

WHILE MAROONED ON EARTH, YOU WERE OFFERED *NUMEROUS* OPPORTUNITIES TO JOIN WITH OTHERS AND ACCOMPLISH A *COMMON* GOAL.

CERTAINLY YOU COULD HAVE *DEFENDED INNOCENTS* IN CONCERT WITH YOUR CONTEMPORARIES.

I AM A *UNIQUE* BEING. I *HAVE* NO CONTEMPORARIES.

MY EXISTENCE IS SOLITARY OUT OF *NECESSITY.*

SO TIME AND AGAIN YOU GO YOUR OWN WAY, ALWAYS *TURNING YOUR BACK* ON SOMEONE.

ALWAYS *LEAVING* SOMEONE BEHIND.

WELL, ISN'T *THIS* SURPRISING?

I DIDN'T EXPECT TO COME ACROSS *SYMBOLIC IMAGERY.*

USUALLY THESE DISPLAYS ARE LIMITED TO *SPECIFIC MEMORIES.*

THE *PAIN* OF YOUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THESE WOMEN HAS CAUSED YOU TO REPLACE *ACTUAL* EVENTS WITH *MENTAL REPRESENTATION.*

MUST HAVE BEEN *DISTURBING.*

MY PAST *ASSOCIATION* WITH THESE WOMEN IS *NO CONCERN* OF YOURS.

YOU'RE *RIGHT.* I COULD CARE LESS.

BUT THEY'RE APPARENTLY OF SOME CONCERN TO *YOU.*

PLEASE... LET'S MOVE ON...

THIS HAS BEEN A *DEPRESSING* TOUR THUS FAR, SURFER.

THE EVENTS THAT *DOMINATE* YOUR PSYCHE AREN'T VERY FLATTERING.

YOU DWELL *ONLY* UPON THE *DARKER* OCCURRENCES IN MY PAST.

WHAT OF MY *TRIUMPHS*?

YOU MISUNDERSTAND. I HAVE *NO CONTROL* OVER THE SCENES WE'VE WITNESSED.

THEY ARE PLUCKED FROM *YOUR* MIND. THEY ARE THE MEMORIES ON WHICH *YOU* FIXATE.

WHY WOULD I CARE TO WITNESS YOUR *DEFEATS* AT THE HANDS OF THANOS?

YOUR *FAILURES* HOLD SLIGHT INTEREST FOR ME.

THESE ARE THE IMAGES YOU *REPLAY* IN YOUR MIND.

THEN THEY ARE *MY OWN* AFFAIR.

END THIS DISTRACTION NOW.

YOU HAVE A *GREAT DEAL* TO LEARN, SURFER. THERE IS *MUCH* YOU WILL NOT ADMIT TO YOURSELF.

HOWEVER, WE *HAVE* ARRIVED AT THE TERMINUS.

AFTER THANOS, THERE *IS* NOTHING ELSE.

NO.

THERE MUST BE AN *ERROR*. THIS IS *NOT* HOW I SEE MYSELF.

MY LIFE CANNOT CULMINATE IN *ULTIMATE FAILURE*.

IN YOUR HEART, YOU EXPECT *NOTHING ELSE* OF YOURSELF.

THE ONLY THING LEFT...

...IS DARK-NESS.

klik

SOMEWHERE.

SOMETIME LATER.

Next: DELIVERANCE from DARKNESS!

MARVEL COMICS

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THE SILVER SURFER®

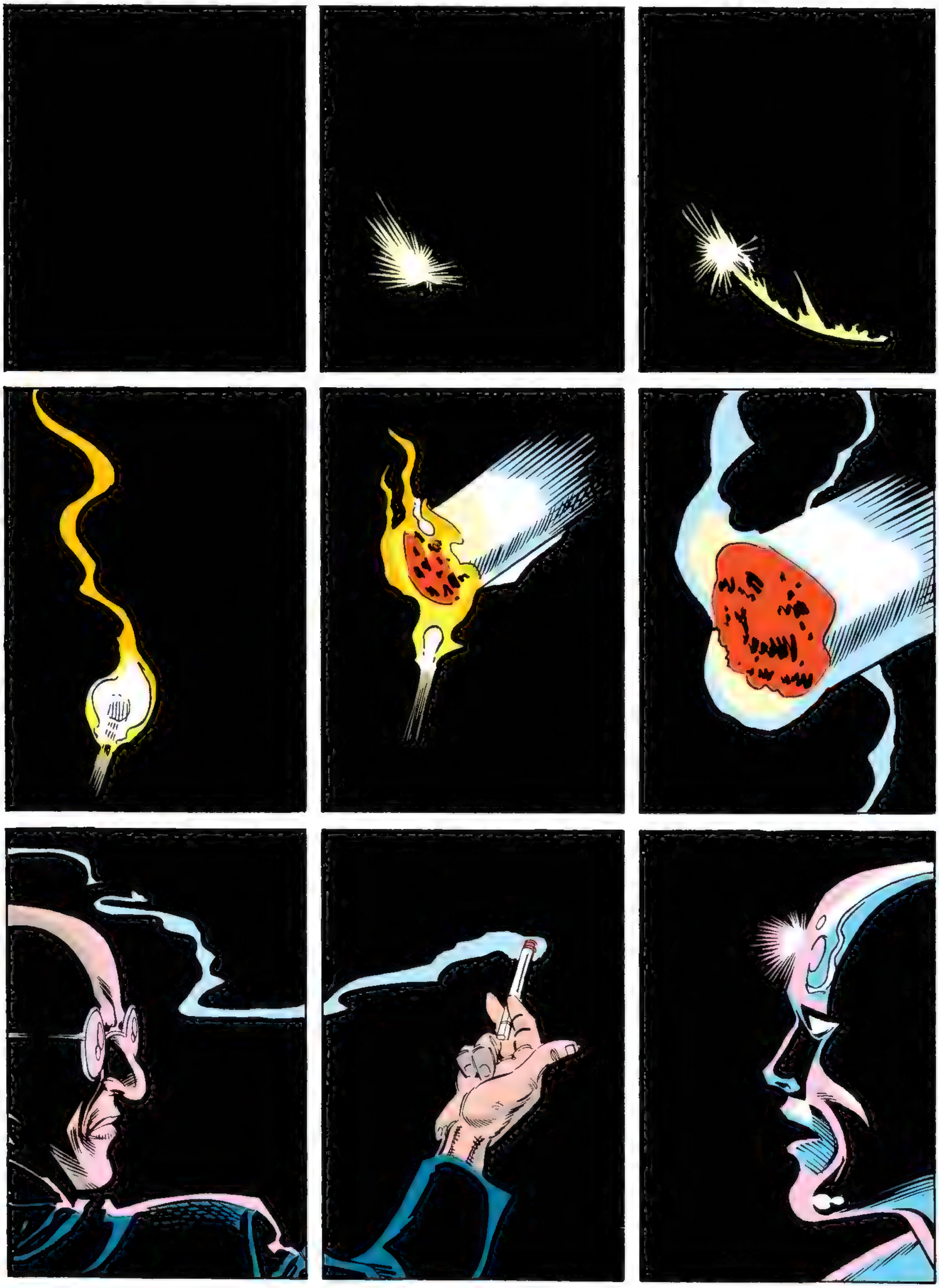
AND INFINITY GAUNTLET™ CROSSOVER

DON LIM 91 +

50 YEARS OF CAPTAIN AMERICA
1941 – 1991

AND NOW... THE DEFENDERS!®

TO SAVE HIS PLANET, **NORRIN RADD** SURRENDERED HIS FREEDOM TO BECOME HERALD TO THE WORLD-DEVOURING **GALACTUS**. COATED WITH GALACTIC GLAZE, GIVEN A SURFBOARD OBEYING HIS MENTAL COMMANDS, AND GRANTED THE POWER COSMIC, HE NOW SOARS THE UNIVERSE A SHINING SENTINEL OF THE SPACEWAYS! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . . **THE SILVER SURFER!**



BLEAK, ISN'T IT?

IF YOUR GOAL WAS TO MAKE ME *RELIVE* MY FAILURES, THEN IT IS *ACCOMPLISHED.*

TAKE ME FROM HERE, VIRTUAL REALITY.

YOUR *FATE* IS IN YOUR HANDS.

IT IS NOT ALLOWED.

THE PATH WE WALKED WAS OF *YOUR OWN* CHOOSING.

IF YOU WISH TO *RETURN,* YOU MUST FIND THE WAY *YOURSELF.*

OR *EMBRACE* THE DARKNESS.

I COULD GIVE IN TO MY FEARS. HIDE HERE, SAFE FROM EVERYTHING.

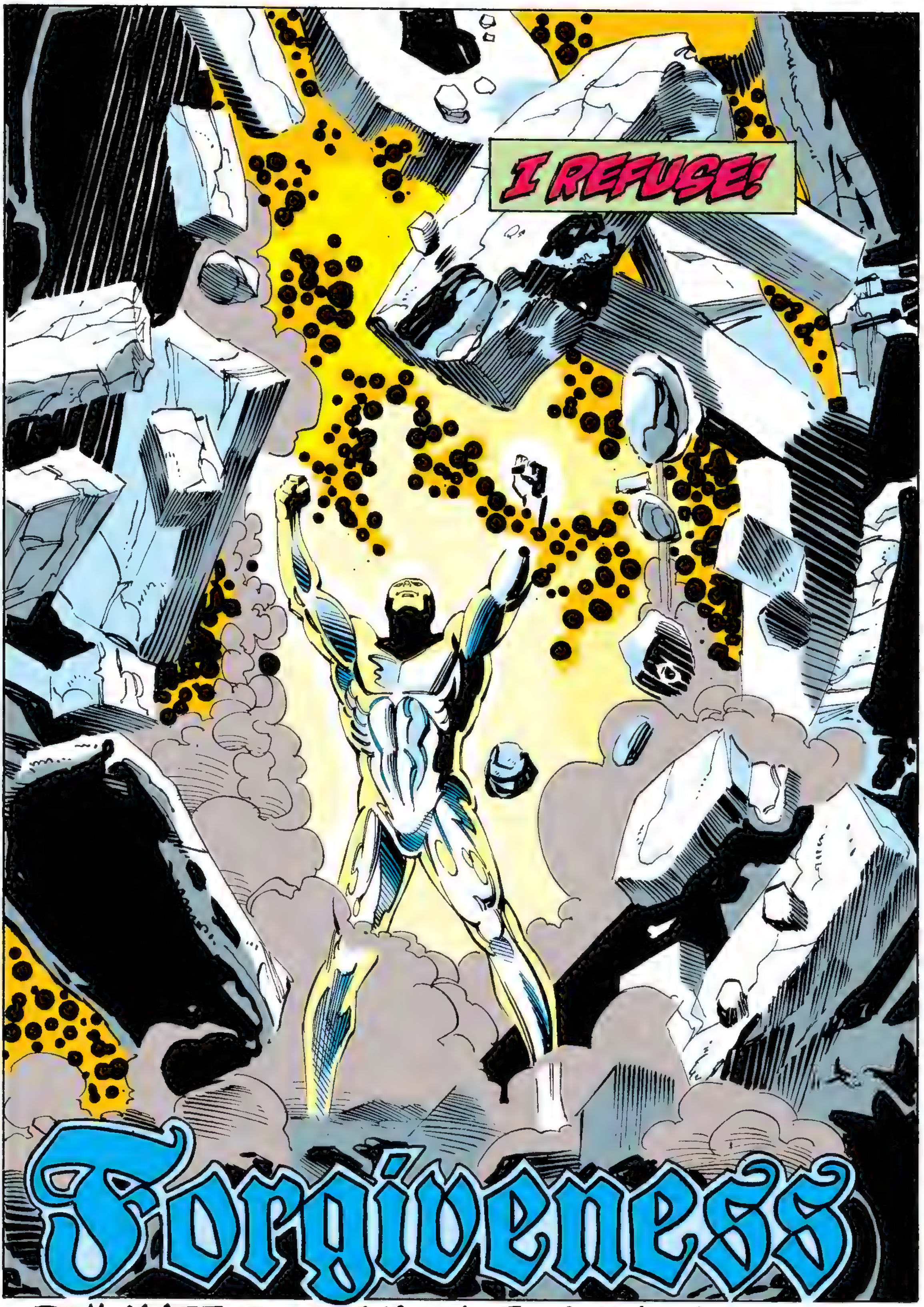
IT WOULD BE SO EASY.

IT WOULD ALSO MEAN I'VE RESIGNED MYSELF TO FAILURE.

THAT I ADMIT I AM UNWORTHY OF THE POWER I WIELD.

THAT MY LIFE HAS BEEN WASTED.

THAT HOPE DOES NOT EXIST.



RON MARZ-TODD SMITH-TOM CHRISTOPHER

WRITER — GUEST PENCILER — INKER

KEN BRUZENAK - TOM VINCENT - CRAIG ANDERSON-TOM DeFALCO

LETTERER — COLORIST — EDITOR — CHIEF

I MUST BE FREE OF THIS PLACE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

I MUST RETURN TO TAKE PART IN THE **BATTLE** AGAINST THANOS.

THE ONLY TASK THAT **REMAINS** IS FINDING MY WAY.

I REFUSE TO BE BRANDED A COWARD.

I **WILL** ESCAPE FROM HERE, THOUGH I MIGHT BE FORCED TO **BRING DOWN** EVERY WALL WITHIN THIS FORTRESS.

THESE HALLS SEEM ENDLESS. MY JOURNEY WITH VIRTUAL REALITY MUST HAVE TAKEN ME MUCH FURTHER THAN I SUSPECTED.

DEAD END.

I'M LOST.

ANOTHER.

THE TUNNELS MUST BE A VIRTUAL MAZE, BENDING BACK UPON THEMSELVES.

I THINK THIS IS THE ONLY ROUTE I HAVEN'T TRIED.

IT'S AS IF I'M BEING HERDED IN THIS DIRECTION, LED TOWARD... WHAT?

WHICH WAY'S IT GONNA BE?

GOING BACK WILL DO YOU NO GOOD.

YOU HAVE TO FACE US.

THOSE VOICES... I KNOW THEM.

SURE YA DO.

YOU DESERTED US OFTEN ENOUGH.

JUST LIKE YOU DESERTED EVERYONE.

IT'S A *BAD HABIT*, SURFER.

ONE WE INTEND TO *CORRECT*.

HOW CAN YOU BE *HERE*?

THE HULK AND PRINCE NAMOR WERE *SLAIN* BY THANOS. AND *YOU*, DOCTOR STRANGE SHOULD BE *MONITORING* THE BATTLE.

THIS *CANNOT* BE.

SHINY MAN NOT GLAD TO SEE HULK!

SHINY MAN THOUGHT HULK GONE FOR GOOD?!!

I'VE DONE YOU NO HARM!

NO, YOU HURT NO ONE! NEVER!

SHINY MAN ALWAYS SAY THAT!

BUT SHINY MAN NEVER TELL TRUTH!

YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO ACCUSE ME!

OUUFF!

WHO BETTER?

WE KNOW YOUR CRIMES. WE SEE THE SELF-DOUBT THAT FESTERS WITHIN YOU.

STOP BURYING YOUR FAILURES.

ADMIT YOUR GUILT.

ADMIT THE SHAMES OF YOUR PAST.

I HAVE... ATONED... AS BEST... I COULD.

BUT IT ISN'T ENOUGH, IS IT?

THERE'S TOO MUCH TO EVER FORGIVE.

WHY DO YOU TORMENT ME SO?

YOU ARE NOT MY KEEPERS!

GREAT COSMOS.

WHAT MANNER OF *MONSTERS* HAVE I UNCOVERED?

IF INDEED WE *ARE* MONSTERS, IT IS ONLY BY *YOUR* DEFINITION.

WE ARE WHAT WE *ARE*-- *EMBODIMENTS*, PERSONIFICATIONS.

WE *HORRIFY* YOU BECAUSE WE ARE THE *SUM* OF ALL YOU FEAR.

BUT WE ARE ONLY AS *MENACING* AS YOU ALLOW US TO BE.

THIS IS DENIAL...

I AM THAT WHICH CRIPPLES YOU MOST.

I AM GUILT.

...AND THIS IS DOUBT.

AND YOU ARE SHACKLED TO US FOREVERMORE.

YOU PLANTED THE SEEDS FROM WHICH WE GREW. YOU NURTURED US WITH SECRET SINS.

AND WE HAVE GROWN STRONG.

I ONLY WANT TO FORGET. I WANT IT TO ALL GO AWAY.

YOU DARE NOT FACE US.

WE ARE YOUR CAPTORS. YOUR MASTERS.

JUST GO AWAY.

WHAT IS TO BE MY FATE?

IF IT WERE UP TO THE *TERRIBLE TRIO* HERE, YOU WOULD REMAIN CONFINED. A *PLAYTHING* FOR THEIR WHIMS. *FOREVER.*

BUT *I'M* IN CHARGE...AND I *LIKE* YOU.

I THINK YOU DESERVE *ANOTHER* SHOT.

HOW CAN I BE RELEASED?

YOUR CHAINS WERE FORGED BY *THEM*- GUILT, DENIAL AND DOUBT. THEY ARE WHAT BINDS YOU.

...THERE ARE RULES EVEN *I* MUST FOLLOW.

I WILL BE *FORCED* TO LEAVE YOU TO THEIR *TENDER MERCIES.*

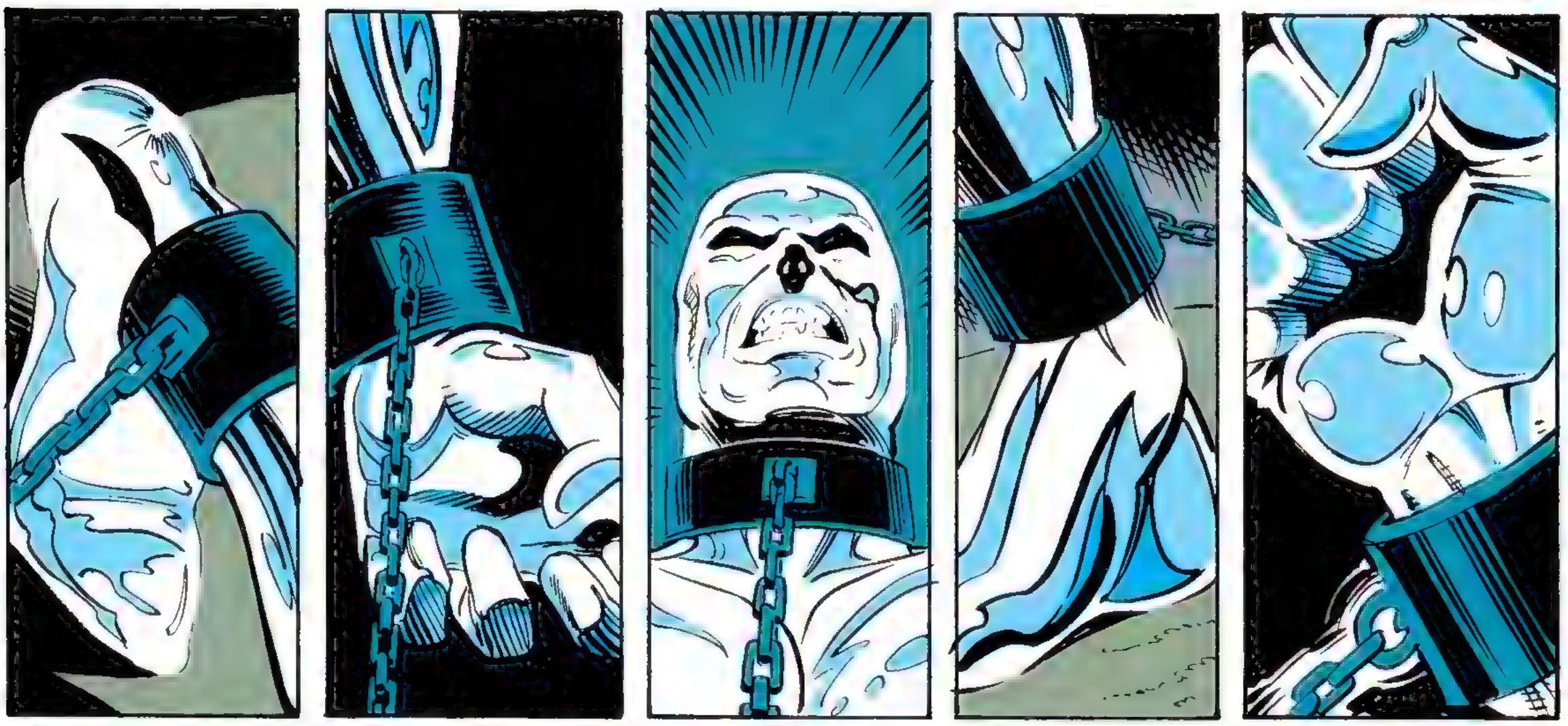
YOU MUST *SEVER* THE LINKS THAT BIND YOU.

IF YOU FAIL...

TELL ME HOW I CAN BE FREED.

YOU WILL KNOW.
SEARCH YOURSELF FOR THE ANSWER.

YOUR STRENGTH MUST COME FROM WITHIN.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHAT DO YOU EXPECT OF ME?



HELLO, NORRIN.

MY LITTLE BOY'S GROWN INTO QUITE A *MAN*, HASN'T HE?

MOTHER?

MOTHER, YOU'RE *ALIVE!*

NO...NOT REALLY. I'M JUST... *HERE*. I CAME TO *SEE* YOU.

HUSH.

WHAT I DID... DIDN'T HAVE *ANY-THING* TO DO WITH YOU. IT WAS *ME*, AND YOUR *FATHER*.

I CAN'T *EXPLAIN* IT ALL. THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS IS THAT YOU *GIVE UP* THE PAIN.

WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO SEE *ME*? WASN'T... *WHAT HAPPENED*... MY FAULT? I TRIED TO BE A GOOD BOY, I DID, BUT...

click

STOP *BLAMING* YOUR-SELF. I'M SETTING YOU *FREE*.

WAIT! DON'T *LEAVE* ME. I *NEED* YOU.

FUNNY. I RESENTED HER BITTERLY FOR TAKING HER OWN LIFE. I HATED *MYSELF* BECAUSE I BELIEVED I *DROVE* HER TO IT. THEN *I* CHOSE THE SAME *FOOLISH* OPTION.

BECAUSE OF *ME*.

I RAISED YOU IN *MY OWN* IMAGE:- SINGLE-MINDED, EVEN *CALLOUS*. YOU KNEW NO *OTHER* WAY.

NO...THE BLAME IS ON *MY* HEAD.

HAD I BEEN ABLE TO *FORGIVE* MYSELF, THINGS MIGHT HAVE TURNED OUT *DIFFERENTLY*.

LET HER GO, SON. *I* HAD TO.

I DON'T WANT *YOU* TO MAKE THE *SAME* MISTAKE.

click

DON'T *POISON* YOURSELF WITH GUILT, SON.

I TRIED TO TELL YOU THE *SAME THING*, NORRIN. BUT I NEVER COULD MAKE YOU *BELIEVE*.

I *PUSHED* THEM AWAY, THEN I WAS *ALONE*. I DESERVED IT, SHALLA-BAL.

NO, YOU *DIDN'T*. AND YOU *WEREN'T* ALONE.

I WANTED TO BE *EVERYTHING* FOR YOU. I WANTED YOU TO *NEED* ME.

I *RAN AWAY* INSTEAD. I *FLED* TO THE STARS.

YOU WEREN'T *READY* FOR WHAT I WANTED. I *UNDERSTAND* THAT NOW.

AND I *FORGIVE* YOU.

click

I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU. ONE DAY, WHEN YOU'RE READY, YOU'LL COME BACK TO ME.

I WILL. I SWEAR IT.

click

NOVA?

AND MANTIS?

YOU, TOO, HAVE COME TO FREE ME?

MOST CERTAINLY, SURFER. WE HOLD YOU TO NO RESPONSIBILITY.

WHY? MY BEHAVIOR TOWARD BOTH OF YOU WAS... LESS THAN TOLERABLE AT TIMES.

YOU'RE EMOTIONALLY IMMATURE. WE SHOULDN'T HAVE EXPECTED MORE.

BUT, MANTIS, I FAILED TO SAVE YOU FROM DEATH*. YOU MUST--

*WAY BACK IN SS#9--CRAIG.

YOU STILL THINK SO.

HOW TOUCHING...

WELL?

THERE'S NO ONE LEFT.

NO ONE BUT...

...ME?!

I AM INSANE!

I AM VISITED BY THOSE WHO COULD NOT *POSSIBLY* BE HERE; EVEN THE *DEAD.*

MY *BODY* BETRAYS ME AS I LOSE MY *MIND.*

NOW I COME TO UNDER-STAND.

THERE IS NO ONE ELSE. IF I AM TO BE *RELEASED*, IT MUST BE BY *MY OWN* HAND.

THOSE WHOM I WRONGED HAVE *FORGIVEN* ME. THEY HAVE SHOWN ME THE *PATH* I MUST FOLLOW.

TO BE *TRULY* FREE, I MUST FORGIVE *MYSELF*.

CLANK

LET *THIS* BE A NEW BEGINNING.

SEE? I KNEW I COULD *COUNT* ON YOU.

YOU JUST NEEDED A LITTLE *HELP* TO POINT YOU IN THE *RIGHT* DIRECTION.

YOU ARE *CHANGED*. THIS PLACE, YOU CALLED IT THE *HALL OF ABSOLUTES*, BUT IT RESEMBLES THAT NO LONGER.

YOU ARE THE ONE WHO IS CHANGED.

YOU NO LONGER VIEW THINGS IN *BLACK-AND-WHITE* TERMS. YOUR PERCEPTION IS CLEAR, ALLOWING YOU TO SEE THE *SHADES OF GRAY* THAT COLOR ALL REALITY.

I'VE LEARNED *MUCH* HERE, AND FOR THAT I *THANK* YOU.

BUT I MUST KNOW IF THIS IS *REAL*. DOES IT TRULY *EXIST*?

DOES IT MATTER?

WOULD IT MAKE THE *KNOW-LEDGE* YOU HAVE GAINED ANY LESS *ESSENTIAL*?

THAT'S NOT--

I AM NOT YOUR CONCERN, SURFER.

TEND TO YOURSELF. YOUR LABORS ARE NOT YET *COMPLETED*, BUT AT LEAST NOW YOU ARE BETTER PREPARED TO *FACE* THEM.

FAREWELL.

IT APPEARS I HAVE BEEN *RETURNED* TO MY FORMER LOCATION, AND FAR BETTER FOR THE TRIP.

I CAN ONLY HOPE MY NEWFOUND *REVELATIONS* HAVEN'T COME *TOO LATE.*

IF THANOS IS *VICTORIOUS,* I WON'T LIVE LONG ENOUGH FOR THEM TO BE OF ANY USE.

BUT AS TO *WHEN,* I HAVE NO IDEA.

WARLOCK, AT LEAST, LIVES.

-INTERLUDE-

USUALLY, THIS IS THE BLEAKEST OF LANDSCAPES, UNBROKEN BY THE SLIGHTEST FEATURE, OR STIRRED BY THE BAREST WIND.

TODAY, HOWEVER, IT WAS A SCENE OF VENGEANCE...

...AND A LITTLE MORE.

THE PERPETRATORS OF THIS DESTRUCTION THOUGHT THE SHIP'S KEEPER TO BE ALREADY DEAD.

BUT IN CASE HE WASN'T...

...THEY LEFT A DEADLY SURPRISE.

...MADNESS...

Next: THE DUEL!

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34
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DR. STRANGE®

SORCERER SUPREME™

∞ INFINITY GAUNTLET CROSSOVER

DARK DOOM!

HE WAS ONCE A SURGEON—AN ARROGANT MAN-OF-THE-WORLD SEDUCED BY MATERIAL WEALTH. THEN, WHEN A TRAGIC ACCIDENT DEPRIVED HIM OF HIS SURGICAL SKILLS, **STEPHEN STRANGE** DISCOVERED A SEPARATE REALITY, A HIGHER PLANE OF OCCULT FORCES IN ETERNAL CONFLICT. VOWING TO BE EARTH'S FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST MAGICAL MENACE, THE ERSTWHILE PHYSICIAN BECAME EARTH'S FOREMOST MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

DOCTOR STRANGE, SORCERER SUPREME!

I'M WALKING IN A BLASTED *WINTER WONDER-LAND!*

ONLY THING IS--IT'S *AUGUST!*

PROBABLY FIND OUT TOMORROW IT'S GOT SOME-THING TO DO WITH THE *OZONE LAYER...* HEY!

THAT GUY OVER THERE WITH THE *SIX-PACK...* HE'S GOTTA BE OVER *SEVEN FEET TALL.*

DIDN'T I HEAR THAT ONE OF THE *KNICKS* LIVES IN GREENWICH VILLAGE?

MY KID'D SURE LIKE ME TO BRING HIM THE AUTOGRAPH OF A BASKET-BALL PLAYER

SAY, *BUDDY--!*

I AM *NOT* YOUR BUDDY.

NOW, IF YOU WILL PLEASE EXCUSE ME, I AM IN A CONSIDERABLE *HURRY.*

POLICE

SNOW BLIND-NESS-- THAT'S WHAT IT IS

I JUST *THOUGHT* I SAW A GUY WITH A FACE LIKE A *WATER BUFFALO!*

IF I TURN AROUND AND HE'S *STILL THERE--!*

GONE!

THAT *TEARS* IT

I'M CALLING IN *SICK.*

FRIEND *PIP?--*

IS DR. STRANGE REALLY--

--HERE?

XA UTUQUEL ACHIH... CHI CA RIC RA NA COH TZIHON TA CHUVACH...

MOLSON CANADIAN

WHAT'S THIS LOOK LIKE, RINTRAH?

A REUNION OF THE KINGSTON TRIO?

IS THERE A DOCTOR NOT IN THE HOUSE?

SPECIAL NOTE: THIS ISSUE AND THE NEXT TAKE PLACE BETWEEN PAGES 5 & 34 OF *INFINITY GAUNTLET* #4. JUST THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW-- AND IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY REAL DIFFERENCE THAT I.G. #5 ISN'T QUITE ON SALE YET, HONEST! --MIKE

ROY & DANN THOMAS WRITERS
PAT BROSSEAU LETTERER
GEORGE ROUSSOS COLORS
MIKE ROCKWITZ EDITOR &
TOM DeFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF
WELCOME THE NECROMANTIC NEW ARTISTIC TEAM OF
DAN LAWLIS PENCILER &
JIM SANDERS III INKER
WITH *CHRIS IVY*

GIVE ME THAT!

WHAT IS GOING ON, TROLL?

I RECEIVED A MENTAL SUMMONS TO BRING THIS LIQUID RESTORANT HERE, RATHER THAN BACK TO THE AVENGERS' DOMICILE...

THAT WAS STRANGE'S DOING.

CATEPUCH TA X-QU IL XIBALBA RI ZAQUI... TA X-EL CHUPAM TOG RIP QUIC...

HE SWITCHED VENUES AFTER HE AND CLEA GOT BACK FROM CLEOPATRA'S EGYPT...*

* AS SEEN LAST ISSUE.--M.

WHAT WAS THAT YOU SAID ABOUT CLEOPATRA?

AND WHO IS THAT MAN RECITING WITH HIS HAND UPON THE MASTER'S SHOULDER?

...QO YVECH CH'UXIC!

EH? WHAT'S THAT BURST--?

YOU SURE ASK A LOT OF QUESTIONS, RINTRAH.

BUT FOR YOUR INFORMATION, THE GUY IS DR. ANTHONY DRUID--

--AND I THINK THE SKIRT GOES BY THE NAME "THE SCARLET WITCH."

BY THE FALTINE, STEPHEN--YOU'VE DONE IT!

YOU MEAN WE'VE DONE IT, CLEA--

--ALL THREE OF US!

IT WAS YOUR POWER THAT SAVED HER--BROUGHT HER HERE.

WE MERELY PROVIDED A BIT OF EXTRA MYSTICAL BALLAST.

DR. STRANGE!?

WH-WHERE IS EVERYONE?

OR--PERHAPS MORE TO THE POINT--WHERE AM I?

YOU'RE... *HOME*, WANDA.

HOME? YES... IF YOU MEAN I'M ON *EARTH*, RATHER THAN FIGHTING *THANOS* ON HIS SPACE-ZIGGURAT.

BUT--I HAVE THIS WEIRD *MEMORY*--OF HIM FORCING MY OWN *SPELL* AGAINST ME--*OBLITERATING* ME--

--*KILLING* ME!

THAT'S... EXACTLY WHAT *DID* HAPPEN.

WHAT?

WHAT DR. DRUID MEANS IS--THAT'S WHAT *THANOS* THINKS HAPPENED TO YOU.

BUT IN THE SAME INSTANT YOUR SPELL REBOUNDED ON YOU, WE MANAGED TO SPIRIT YOU OUT OF HARM'S WAY--THOUGH IT'S TAKEN A WHILE TO *RECONSTITUTE* YOU HERE.

BESIDES WANTING TO SAVE YOU--WE SORELY *NEED* WHATEVER *MAGIC* YOU CAN WIELD.

CLEA, DRUID, AND I HAVE DONE WHAT WE CAN--

--BUT *MY* POWERS ARE MOSTLY JUST *RITUAL* ONES, ALTHOUGH--FOR REASONS TOO COMPLICATED TO EXPLAIN RIGHT NOW--I CAN *ADD* TO HIS POWERS SOMEWHAT.

WE KNOW WE'RE ASKING A *LOT*, WANDA, CONSIDERING ALL YOU'VE JUST BEEN THROUGH, BUT--

THE WHOLE *COSMOS* IS MENACED BY THAT MAD TITAN, STRANGE. OF *COURSE* I'LL HELP.

BUT MY GREATEST STRENGTH IS MY *MUTANT HEX POWER*.

SUCH ACTUAL *MAGIC* AS I KNOW, I DEVELOPED UNDER THE TUTELAGE OF *AGATHA HARKNESS*.

WOULDN'T YOU BE BETTER OFF GETTING *HER* TO HELP YOU?

AGATHA HARKNESS IS AMONG THE ONE-HALF OF EARTH'S POPULATION THAT HAS *VANISHED*.

OH.

ADAM WARLOCK AND THE *SILVER SURFER* WANT ME TO LOCATE AS MANY OF THE HEROES *DEFEATED* BY THANOS AS POSSIBLE.

THEN--THINGS HAVE BEEN GETTING *WORSE* IN THANOS'S SPHERE SINCE I... WAS THERE?

MUCH WORSE.

THESE *SHARDS*, FOR INSTANCE, ARE ALL THAT'S LEFT OF *THOR*--TURNED TO *GLASS* BY THANOS, AND THEN DEMOLISHED.

AND, IN *THIS* CORNER...

DR. DOOM?!

I SAW THIS HAPPEN TO HIM--JUST BEFORE MY *OWN* DISASTER.

DOOM FOUGHT VALIANTLY--BUT HE ALSO COULDN'T RESIST TRYING TO GET THE *SOUL-GEMS* FOR HIMSELF--

--AND A BURST OF ENERGY FROM THANOS TURNED HIM INTO THIS CHARRED AND BLACKENED "*STATUE.*"

IS HE--*ALIVE?*

YES. IN SOME WAY I'M NOT CLEAR ON YET, THANOS'S POWERS ACTED ON SOMETHING ENDEMIC TO DOOM'S NATURE.

TO HELP HIM, WE'LL HAVE TO SEEK THE ANSWER HERE, ON DOOM'S *OWN* PLANET, NOT IN A FARAWAY GALAXY.

WHILE DRUID AND I DO THAT, I NEED YOU AND CLEA TO PORE OVER THESE FRAGMENTS THAT USED TO BE *THOR.*

WE'LL DO WHAT WE CAN, STEPHEN.

THOUGH IT WILL SEEM *GHOULISH*--PORING OVER PIECES OF A FELLOW *AVENGER.*

I STAND READY TO *SERVE,* MASTER.

I'M SORRY, RINTRAH, BUT YOU'RE NOT *READY* YET FOR THE LEVEL OF MAGIC IN WHICH WE MAY GET INVOLVED.

YOU STAY HERE AND, *UH,* KEEP WATCH.

SO--THE FAITHFUL SORCERER'S APPRENTICE IS CALLOUSLY CAST ASIDE, WHEN AN ASSORTMENT OF *WITCHES* AND *WIZARDS* COMES ALONG!

MUST I TELL YOU AGAIN, TROLL?

NO SMOKING!

BOY, DID *SOMEBODY* GET UP ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE STOCKYARD THIS MORNING!

OH WELL, AT LEAST I'VE STILL GOT MY *DRINKIE-WINKIE*--

--NOT TO MENTION, AT THIS POINT, THE SHEER, UNMITIGATED *GALL* TO ASK--

IS THERE STILL A *DOCTOR* IN THE HOUSE?

APPARENTLY NOT.

ALL THAT *ICE--!*

DO YOU REALLY THINK THE EARTH IS HEADED FOR A NEW *ICE AGE*, STEPHEN?

IT *IS*-- IF *THANOS* ISN'T STOPPED!

AND YET, THAT WILL ONLY BE A *SIDE EFFECT* OF HIS NOW GOD-LIKE POWERS.

ICE-BERGS DRIFTING SOUTH--

THAT WON'T HELP THE SITUATION MUCH.

IF I'M NOT OUT OF LINE-- AFTER YOUR LADYFRIEND BLEW UP AT YOU FOR MAKING HER *SLEEP* THROUGH YOUR PREVIOUS MISSION--

--WHY DIDN'T YOU BRING HER WITH *US?*

YOU, DOOM, AND I HAVE SOMETHING IN *COMMON* WHICH CLEA CAN'T SHARE.

WE *DO?*

MIND IF I ASK *WHAT?*

OR, FOR THAT MATTER-- WHERE WE'RE *GOING?*

SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO KEEP YOU IN THE DARK.

WE'RE HEADING FOR *TIBET...*

IN FACT--WE'RE *THERE!*

YOU AND I BOTH FOUND OUR DESTINIES HERE--AS *MAGICIANS*--

--AND SO DID *VICTOR VON DOOM!*

TIBET!?

CALL ME *DENSE*, IF YOU WANT TO-- BUT I DON'T *GET* IT!

SURELY YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TELL ME ***DOOM'S*** ORIGINS ARE BOUND UP WITH ***OURS!?***

BUT THEN, AT THIS POINT, ***NOTHING*** WOULD SURPRISE ME MUCH.

I KNOW YOU'VE LONG SINCE ***FORGIVEN*** HIM FOR HIS DECEPTION.

IT'S HARD FOR EVEN ***ME*** TO UNDERSTAND-- BUT EVIDENTLY HE WAS ***BUYING TIME*** WHILE I WAS GOING THROUGH MY *"SELFISH SURGEON"* AND *"DOWN-AND-OUT DERELICT"* PHASES.

"A FEW YEARS AFTER YOUR TRIP, I FINALLY SHOWED UP ON SCHEDULE-- ALTHOUGH THE LAMASERY I BEHELD LOOKED ENTIRELY ***DIFFERENT*** FROM THE ONE YOU'D SEEN.

"IMAGINE MY SURPRISE WHEN I LEARNED* THAT ***MY*** JOURNEY TO A ***HIMALAYAN LAMASERY***-- WHERE THE MYSTIC POWERS OF MY ***BRITON ANCESTORS*** WERE AWAKENED BY A SUPPOSEDLY DYING ***LAMA***--

"--WAS ACTUALLY JUST AN ELABORATE PLAN OF ***YOUR*** MENTOR-TO-BE, THE ***ANCIENT ONE!***"

*SEE AVENGERS SPOTLIGHT #37. --MAGICAL MIKE

"THE ANCIENT ONE MADE ME HIS ***DISCIPLE***, AND THE REST IS ***HISTORY***--THOUGH A HISTORY FEW WOULD ***KNOW***, IF NOT FOR MORGANA BLESSING'S THRICE-CURSED BEST-SELLER."

WELL, IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL ANY BETTER, I THINK MS. BLESSING'S BOOK IS BEING INCREASINGLY LOOKED ON AS MOSTLY A WORK OF *FICTION*.

AND SHE'S DONE EVERY-THING SHE CAN LATELY TO HELP THAT IMPRESSION ALONG.

LOOK...

...THE *RUINS* OF THE ANCIENT ONE'S *LAMASERY!*

THAT'S WHAT *YOU* SEE!

I SEE THE ONE I HIKED TO, EARLIER-- THOUGH IT'S IN RUINS, TOO.

IS THAT OUR FINAL DESTINA-TION?

NO.

WE'RE HEADED FOR THE SCENE OF *DOOM'S* ORIGINS, NOT OUR OWN.

PLEASE FORGIVE MY DISTRACTION. I WAS IN TOO MUCH OF A HURRY TO EXPLAIN BE-FORE WE LEFT AMERICA.

NO COMPLAINTS. I'M WILLING TO TAKE YOU ON *FAITH*.

MAYBE JUST MY WAY OF *MAKING IT UP* FOR ACTING LIKE SUCH A *LOUSE*, BACK WHEN I WAS ONE OF THE *AVENGERS*.

YOU ATONED FOR THAT, ANTHONY, WHEN YOU SAVED THE EARTH FROM *NEBULA'S* MANIPULATION OF *TIME*.

NEBULA...

I *LOVED* HER, STEPHEN, BUT SHE WAS JUST *USING* ME.

WELL, AT LEAST, IN STOPPING HER, I TURNED BACK THE *CLOCK* ON MYSELF-- AND BECAME A *YOUNGER* DR. DRUID, COMPLETE WITH *HAIR*.

THE *MULTI-VERSE'S* WAY, I SUPPOSE, OF GIVING ME A *SECOND CHANCE*...

...ONE I INTEND TO MAKE THE *BEST* OF!

THE *CAVE* OF A LITTLE-KNOWN ORDER OF *MONKS*--

WHAT'S *THIS*?

--WHO'VE DWELT HERE IN SECRECY AND SECLUSION FOR MORE THAN *NINE HUNDRED YEARS!*

DON'T TELL ME-- *THIS* MUST BE THEM!

WELCOME, DR. STRANGE. WE *SENSED* THE APPROACH OF OUR *FORMER MASTER*, AND WE ARE HERE TO *GREET* HIM.

"*FORMER MASTER*"? DO THEY MEAN *YOU*, STEPHEN?

NO. THEY REFER TO *DOOM*. AS YOU KNOW, HIS *FACE* WAS HIDEOUSLY SCARRED IN AN EXPLOSION, DURING HIS YOUTH...

"DISILLUSIONED WITH PURE SCIENCE, VON DOOM -- WHOSE MOTHER HAD BEEN A *GYPSY SORCERESS* -- MADE THE LONG, ARDUOUS TREK TO WHAT HAS BEEN CALLED *'THE ROOF OF THE WORLD.'*

"THIS WAS *BEFORE* EITHER OF US WAS SUMMONED THROUGH THE WILES OF THE ANCIENT ONE.

"*HIS* PURPOSE HERE, UNLIKE OURS, WAS MERELY TO *HIDE* HIS DISFIGURED FEATURES FROM THE REST OF MANKIND, FOREVER.

"IN HIS RASH DESPAIR, HE HAD *ILL-PREPARED* FOR THE JOURNEY...

"... AND HE NEARLY *FROZE TO DEATH* BEFORE HE STUMBLED UPON THE CAVE OF THIS MYSTERIOUS ANCIENT ORDER.

"THEY TOOK HIM IN, AND CARED FOR HIM FOR *MANY MONTHS*.

"IN TIME, HE LEARNED ALL THAT THEY COULD TEACH HIM, AND BECAME THEIR *MASTER*.

"THEN, HE HAD THEM CREATE FOR HIM AN EERIE *SUIT OF ARMOR*...

"...AND AN *IRON MASK*, WHICH HE HAS WORN EVER SINCE.

"ON THAT DAY, *VICTOR VON DOOM* BECAME -- *DR. DOOM*.

"HE *LEFT* THEM SOON AFTER, NEVER TO RETURN -- UNTIL *TODAY*."

I'LL LEVITATE HIS INERT FORM INSIDE, WHERE THE MONKS CAN EXAMINE HIM MORE CLOSELY.

HIS STORY IS SO *UNLIKE* OURS, AND YET, SO *LIKE* THEM, TOO!

ARE YOU *SURE* THAT DOOM WASN'T STILL ANOTHER "*TEST RUN*" FOR YOU?

I'M POSITIVE.

THEN -- ARE YOU POSITIVE *YOU* WEREN'T ONE FOR *HIM*?

WE'D BETTER GO INSIDE.

SINCE THEY SOMEHOW SENSED OUR COMING --

-- THEY WILL ALREADY HAVE ACTIVATED THE GREAT *FURNACE* --

-- IN WHICH THE ENTITY KNOWN AS *DR. DOOM* WAS FORGED.

BY THE TRIPLE-GODDESS! THIS *HEAT* --!

ONLY THIS *MYSTIC FIRE* CAN REVERSE THE *CHARRING* EFFECT OF THANOS'S MAGIC ON THE MASTER OF LATVERIA.

TO BE *BORN* AGAIN, HE HAD TO BE RETURNED TO THE FLAMES IN WHICH DR. DOOM WAS *FIRST* BIRTHED.

AND -- ARE YOU *CERTAIN* THIS WILL WORK?

NO. BUT IF IT *DOESN'T* --

--THEN NOTHING WILL--

--AND THE FORCES ARRAYED AGAINST THANOS WILL BE THE MORE DESPERATE BECAUSE OF IT.

THE MASTER LIES SO STILL...

IT IS HARD TO IMAGINE HIM--SO HELP-LESS.

THE ONE WHO FELLED HIM WAS LIKE UNTO A GOD.

NOW, STAND ASIDE, AS I LEVITATE HIM INTO THE--

BLAMM

STEPHEN! THAT WAS--

RAKKA RAKKA

SHOTS-- FROM OUTSIDE!

SEE TO YOUR MASTER, BROTHER MONKS!

DR. DRUID AND I WILL INVESTIGATE THE DIS-TURBANCE.

TRUTH TO TELL, MY FRIEND--

--I DON'T THINK THEY EVEN HEARD YOU!

I *WARNED* THE FOOL NOT TO MOVE TOWARD ME!

HE WAS BUT *WELCOMING* YOU...

STEPHEN! THOSE *CHINESE SOLDIERS*-- THEY SHOT ONE OF THE MONKS!

BUT--HOW DID I *UNDER-STAND* WHAT THEY SAID?

A SIMPLE *SPELL*-- IT'S HOW WE'VE BOTH UNDERSTOOD THE *MONKS*, TILL NOW.

WHY ARE YOU OPPRESSING THESE HARMLESS HOLY MEN?

WE ARE TO FORCE THE MONKS, WHOSE *MYSTIC POWERS* ARE WELL-KNOWN, TO HALT THE *ICE AGE* THREATENING ALL OF CHINA!

SINCE YOU TWO *WHITE MEN* ARE CLAD SO LIGHTLY-- *YOU* MUST BE MAGICIANS, AS WELL.

DO WHAT YOU *MUST*-- AND YOU WILL BE *REWARDED*.

REFUSE-- AND YOU WILL *DIE*, HERE AND NOW!

YOUR ARMY CONQUERED THE *REST* OF TIBET FOUR DECADES AGO-- BUT NOT *THIS* SACRED PLACE.

DEPART-- *NOW!*

NO ONE DEFIES US!

FIRE!

RAKKA

RAKKA

BLAM

BLAM

AS ALWAYS, MEN *WITH* GUNS REACT WITH VIOLENCE MORE SWIFTLY THAN MEN *WITHOUT* GUNS.

FORTUNATELY, THE SIMPLEST *SHIELD OF SERAPHIM* WILL PROTECT US FROM THEIR BULLETS.

THANKS! I WASN'T CLOSE ENOUGH TO *HYPNOTIZE* ANY OF THEM.

*YANG-QUI-ZI!**

BLAM

BLAM

*FOREIGN DEVIL.--MIKE

RAKKA RAKKATA

I JUST WANT TO DEAL WITH THESE SOLDIERS *QUICKLY.*

DR. DOOM IS DOUBTLESS UNDERGOING A MYSTICAL *TRANS-FORMATION* IN THERE--

AND I SHOULD BE THERE TO *CONTROL* IT!

THE *HEAT*-- IS SUDDENLY *UNBEAR-ABLE!*

BLACK TENDRILS WRITHE FROM THE FURNACE!

BUT WE *DARE* NOT ABANDON THE *MASTER!*

THERE! *RAGGADORR'S RINGS* SHOULD KEEP THESE TRIGGER-HAPPY TROOPS FROM *ROVING.*

BUT-- WHAT WERE THOSE *SHOUTS* I HEARD COMING FROM INSIDE THE *CAVE?*

THE *MONKS,* I'M AFRAID.

WE MAY HAVE BEEN *DELAYED* OUT HERE--

-- A FEW MOMENTS *TOO LONG!*

I AM-- *DOOM!*

WHAT'S THAT?

BUT--DOOM'S BODY IS STILL FLOATING IN THE *FURNACE!*

SHADES OF STONEHENGE! DO YOU MEAN--?

YES. THIS IS DOOM'S *SHADOW-SELF*--

--ALL THE FEELINGS AND URGES HE'S EVER *RE-PRESSED*--

--*EMBODIED*, AT LAST--AND *FREE!*

AND DETERMINED TO *REMAIN* SO.

DOOM WAS--IS--*EVIL!*

IF YOU'RE HIS *SHADOW*--IN *JUNG'S* SENSE OF THE WORD--YOU'RE *GOOD!*

INDEED.

THAT IS WHY I CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO *RECONSTITUTE* AND *REVIVIFY* HIM!

BUT WE *MUST*--DON'T YOU SEE THAT?

VICTOR VON DOOM IS *NEEDED*--NOT YOU, BUT THE *MAN* HIMSELF--FOR THE GREATER GOOD OF THE *EARTH*--OF THE *UNIVERSE!*

IF YOU KEEP ME FROM REVIVING HIM, EVEN FOR "*GOOD*" REASONS--YOU'LL BE CAUSING A *FAR GREATER EVIL* THAN *HE* EVER COULD HAVE!

SUCH CONSIDERATIONS ARE NOT *MINE*. I KNOW ONLY THAT, JUST AS *EVIL* WAS PREPONDERANT IN *DOOM THE MAN*--SO DOES *GOOD* HOLD SWAY IN *DOOM THE SHADOW*--

--AND I SHALL DO WHATEVER I MUST THAT *GOOD SHALL TRIUMPH!*

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT US A FIRST-CLASS *PARADOX* HERE, STRANGE.

ONE THAT MAY WELL DECIDE THE FATE OF THE *COSMOS!*

GET BACK! HE'S COMING OUR--

OUT OF MY WAY, HEIR TO THE DRUIDS!

IT IS ONLY THE *SORCERER SUPREME* WHO CAN POSE ANY THREAT TO THE *SHADOW OF DOOM!*

SWAKT

NNGGNN--!

BUT ONCE *DOOM'S CORPUS* IS ANNIHILATED-- EVEN *HE* WILL CEASE TO MATTER.

NO! YOU *CANNOT* DESTROY DOOM'S BODY!

I *CAN*--

--AND I *SHALL*--

--IN THE NAME OF THE *UNIVERSAL GOOD!*

I DON'T EVEN KNOW *WHY* I'M DOING THIS!

I'M NOT EVEN A *SORCERER,* PROPERLY SPEAKING.

ALL I HAVE ARE A FEW MINOR *MENTAL* SKILLS--

--AND THE RACIAL MEMORIES OF MY *CELTIC ANCESTORS* AND THEIR *RITUALS.*

BUT I'VE GOT TO DO *SOME-THING* TO TRY TO HELP--

--AND I ONLY PRAY THIS *DRUIDIC CIRCLE* IS THE RIGHT THING AT THE RIGHT TIME!

I CALL ONCE MORE UPON THE *THREE MOTHER GODDESSES OF WAR!*

MORRIGAN!

BADB!

MACHA!

IF YOU DO NOT *ANSWER* MY PLEA FOR HELP--

--THERE MAY NOT *BE* ANY MORE RACIAL MEMORIES--

--FOR THE *WHOLE UNIVERSE!*

BY THE FOUR FANTASTIC FRAGMENTS OF THE FABLED QUADRIVERSE--

BY THE MIGHT OF PUISSANT OSHTUR, SWIFT TO CHASTISE OR TO CURSE--

MAY THE FEARSOME WINDS OF WATOOMB, WHOSE STORMS THE STARS COERCE--

WHOOO

--FROM ONE WHO DRAWS HIS ENERGIES FROM *BEYOND THE COSMOS!*

THRAK

I SEE NOW THAT THE *GREATER GOOD* REQUIRES THAT I SHOW *NO MERCY*--

AAHHGGG--!

--THAT, INSTEAD, I WIN THE FINAL VICTORY OVER DR. DOOM'S *EVIL*--

--BY *SLAYING* ALL WHO WOULD *DEFEND* HIS PHYSICAL FORM!

STEPHEN! CAN YOU MAKE IT INSIDE MY *CIRCLE?*

JUST... BARELY...

HARNESSING THE POWER OF *THREE WAR-GODDESSES*, IT'LL REQUIRE A *HUGE* EXPENDITURE OF POWER FOR THAT THING TO SMASH HIS WAY THROUGH THEIR UN-SEEN SHIELD!

I DON'T WANT-- TO *DIS-ILLUSION* YOU--

--BUT A *HUGE AMOUNT OF POWER* IS PRECISELY WHAT THAT *SHADOW-DOOM* IS ABOUT TO *HURL* AT US!

I... THINK WE'RE IN TROUBLE.

HALT!

WHO--?

IS A MAN FORGOTTEN SO *QUICKLY*, ANTHONY DRUID--

--SIMPLY BECAUSE HE RECEIVED AN INCONSEQUENTIAL *FLESH WOUND* IN AN INTERGALACTIC *SKIRMISH*?

DOOM!?

THE *REAL* ONE?

BELIEVE IT, MY FRIEND.

SO--THE EMBODIMENT OF *EVIL* HAS ARISEN--TO CHALLENGE THE PERSONIFICATION OF HIS OWN *GOOD!*

STEPHEN--MAYBE WE'RE ON THE *WRONG SIDE* HERE! MAYBE--

NO, DRUID! OUR FIGHT'S WITH THE *SHADOW!*

ALL RIGHT! YOU'RE THE REAL *SORCERER* AROUND HERE, SO I'LL LET *YOU* CALL THE SHOTS.

THEN GATHER TO YOURSELF THE POWER OF THE *TRIPLE GOD-DESS--*

DONE!

--AND HOPE ALL THAT *HALF-MYSTICAL, HALF-TECHNOLOGICAL ENERGY* THE SHADOW-DOOM'S HURLING AT US--

--ISN'T GREATER THAN THE SUM OF *OUR* PARTS!

WORMS! MY RIGHTEOUS WRATH WILL SMASH YOU LIKE--

WE *DID* IT! WE *DESTROYED* THE SHADOW!

NO. OUR JOINT SPELL MERELY THRUST IT BACK *INSIDE* DOOM-- WHERE IT *BELONGS.*

AND THAT WAS OUR *GOAL*--A DR. DOOM WITH HIS *EVIL SIDE* RESTORED INTACT?

THE *DOOM-SHADOW* WAS NOT THE SPIRIT OF THE UNADULTERATED "*GOOD*" IT DECEIVED ITSELF--AND *US*--INTO BELIEVING.

GOOD AND EVIL ARE SO INEX-TRICABLY *MIXED,* AND *LINKED* IN DR. DOOM THAT THEY COULD NOT BE TOTALLY *SEPARATED.*

FOR, *NOTHING* IN LIFE IS EVER *PURE* GOOD...OR *PURE EVIL.*

TO PERHAPS COIN A PHRASE--ALL IS *ALLOY.*

FOR INSTANCE--DOOM MAY HAVE BEEN TRYING TO WREST THE *SOUL GEMS* FROM THANOS FOR HIS *OWN* SELFISH MOTIVES--

--BUT WHO CAN SAY FOR CERTAIN THAT HE WASN'T *ALSO* FIGHTING THE TITAN BECAUSE THE *WORLD* WAS AT STAKE?

WELL, DOOM? ONLY *YOU* CAN TELL ME IF I MADE THE *RIGHT CHOICE* OR NOT.

DID WE RESCUE A *GREAT IF FLAWED MAN*--

--OR A *MONSTER,* WHO WOULD SACRIFICE THE REST OF THE UNIVERSE FOR A STAB AT TOTAL POWER?

STRANGE! LOOK OUT!

HE'S--

HE'S RAISING HIS HAND TO SHOOT AN *ENERGY BOLT* AT YOU!

--LOWERING HIS HAND.

I SALUTE YOU, STEPHEN STRANGE.

I DID INDEED *LOSE CONTROL* OF MYSELF, IN THE HEAT OF THE BATTLE WITH THANOS--BUT IT WILL NOT HAPPEN AGAIN.

I'M VERY GLAD TO HEAR THAT, DOOM.

THEN--SHALL WE *REJOIN* THE DISTANT FRAY, IF IT BE NOT ALREADY *LOST?*

IT'S BEST YOU STAY *HERE*, AND HOLD YOURSELF IN READINESS.

I AM AT YOUR DISPOSAL.

AT THE PROPER MOMENT, I'LL *SUMMON* YOU--ALONG WITH ANY *OTHERS* I CAN SALVAGE FROM THE FIRST ASSAULT.

UH, STEPHEN--ARE YOU *SURE* THAT WAS THE *REAL McCOY?*

I MEAN--HE'S ACTING LIKE SUCH A *PUSSY-CAT...*

IT *IS* THE REAL DR. DOOM, ANTHONY.

AND ARE YOU *EQUALLY* SURE HE WON'T *REVERT* TO HIS OLD WAYS, EVEN IN THE MIDST OF A *REMATCH* WITH THANOS?

NOW, AS TO *THAT...*

...CAN *ANY* OF US TRULY BE CERTAIN WHAT WE WILL DO, FACED BY *TERROR* OR *TEMPTATION?*

WE CAN ONLY PRAY FOR THE *BEST*--

--AND STRIVE TO PREPARE FOR THE *WORST!*

NOW ON TO INFINITY GAUNTLET #6! THEN, IN DR. STRANGE #35--THE SEARCH FOR ADAM WARLOCK!

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THE INCREDIBLE HULK®

& INFINITY GAUNTLET CROSSOVER

THE ABOMINATION™ IS OVER SIX FEET TALL...

...THE HULK IS UNDER SIX INCHES...

...BOY, IS THE ABOMINATION IN FOR AN EARFUL!

...AND ANOTHER THING...!

CAUGHT IN THE HEART OF A GAMMA BOMB EXPLOSION, DR. BRUCE BANNER NOW FINDS HIMSELF TRANSFORMED INTO A POWERFUL, DARK, AND DISTORTED REFLECTION OF HIMSELF.

STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

THE INCREDIBLE HULK

IRON MAN

WOLVERINE

THOR

ANNETTE

CUBBY

BRUCE

MOUSEKETEER ROLL CALL.

THAT WAS BRUCE'S FAVORITE SHOW.

BACK WHEN HE LAUGHED.

LAUGH.

LAUGHTER, DARK AND HIDEOUS...

THE LAUGHTER OF DEATH AND THE STINK OF FEAR...

AND... AND...

NO!!

NO...NO MORE.

NO LAUGHING.

NO...NO LIGHT.

NO MORE.

NO...

UH...

WHERE THE HECK *AM* I?

FROM STREAM OF CONSCIOUS-NESS...

TO STREAM OF SEWAGE.

WHATEVER THAT WATER IS DOWN THERE, IT STINKS TO HIGH HEAVEN.

THAT IS, OF COURSE, IF ANYONE IN HEAVEN IS STILL *WATCHING.*

EVERYTHING SEEMS SO FRAGMENTED. AS IF IT WERE A DREAM, OR HAPPENED TO SOMEBODY ELSE COM-PLETELY.

PEOPLE DYING--THOR ...OTHERS. A HUGE FIGHT. EVERYONE GETTING KILLED...

EXCEPT IT'S GONE NOW. JUST LIKE THAT. FLITTERING AWAY.

WHATEVER KNOCKED ME OUT CERTAINLY DID A *JOB* ON ME. SO NOW I HAVE TO FIND OUT WHERE I AM AND HOW I GET BACK TO WHERE I WAS ...WHEREVER THAT WAS.

THIS PLACE IS *HUGE.* I COULD WANDER AROUND HERE FOR *DAYS.*

RATS. WHAT ELSE COULD GO WRONG?

Small Talk

A little tale from

PETER DAVID	DALE KEOWN	MARK FARMER	GLYNIS OLIVER	JOE ROSEN	BOBBIE CHASE	TOM DeFALCO
WRITER	PENCILER	INKER	COLORIST	LETTERER	EDITOR	EDITOR IN CHIEF

ARRRHHHHH!

MAN! I THOUGHT IT STANK IN HERE BEFORE!

LOOKS LIKE THAT WAS JUST A PREVIEW.

NO WONDER I WAS THINKING ABOUT THE MICKEY MOUSE CLUB.

I MUST HAVE OVERHEARD RICKEY RAT HERE SQUEALING NEARBY.

YOU'RE TOAST, R-I-C-K-E-Y.

WHY?

BECAUSE YOU MAKE US *SICK!*

♪ R-A-T-S ♪

THIS IS GOING TO MAKE GETTING HOME EVEN TOUGHER THAN I THOUGHT.

JUDGING FROM THE SIZE OF THAT THING, I'M *OBVIOUSLY* ON SOME SORT OF ALIEN WORLD.

I MEAN LAST TIME I *CHECKED*, THEY DIDN'T GROW RATS THAT BIG ON...

EARTH?

MOM! ARE YOU OKAY?!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WHO IS THIS?" IT'S MARLO!

GREAT, MOM. RIGHT. HALF THE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD *POOFING* OUT OF EXISTENCE, AND *MY* MOTHER HAS TO BUST MY CHOPS ABOUT MY NOT *CALLING* ENOUGH! *JEEZ!*

OF *COURSE* I WAS WORRIED! IT'S ON ALL THE CHANNELS! THEY EVEN BROKE INTO *HBO!*

MOM, HOW CAN YOU...?

YES, I CAN AFFORD *HBO!* JEEZ, WILL YOU *LISTEN* TO ME?

TO...TO REPEAT, HALF THE WORLD'S POPULATION-- INCLUDING CO... CO-ANCHOR LISA CHUNG...HAVE... HAVE VANISHED.

NEWS

VOL

HERE IS SHOCK-ING NEWS FOOTAGE FROM OUR NEW YORK AFFILIATE.

RICK?

NO! I CAN'T DIE *NOW!* I GOT A GIG ON THURSDAY!

THUD

MARLO? MARLO?

SOME DAUGHTER.

IT *WASN'T* SOME SORT OF DREAM. IT REALLY HAPPENED.

ALL OF US, BATTLING SOME CREATURE NAMED *THANOS*, AND HE SHRUNK ME DOWN TO THIS. THEN TOSSED ME BACK TO EARTH AS IF I WERE *NOTHING*.

WHICH I AM, TO HIM.

SOMEONE *COMING!* MAYBE A SEWER WORKER OR SOMETHING. HE COULD GET ME *OUT* OF HERE.

HEY! DOWN *HERE!*

GREAT. HE CAN'T HEAR ME, MY VOICE IS TOO SMALL.

OH, BETTER AND *BETTER*. IT'S EMIL BLONSKY... THE *ABOMINATION!* AND HE'S STILL GOT NADIA, THE WOMAN HE *KIDNAPPED*. I'M BACK IN NEW YORK.

ALL RIGHT, BLONSKY! I KNOW YOU THOUGHT YOU GOT OFF SCOTT FREE BEFORE!

TIME TO DISILLUSION YOU OF THAT!

HMMF.

MOSQUITOS.

SPLOOSH

OH WONDERFUL.

THANOS REDUCED MY SIZE *AND* MY MASS. I'M TOO *LIGHT!* SCREWED UP MY ENTIRE TRAJEC--

GLUB

ALL RIGHT. THIS IS JUST A MINOR SETBACK.

SPLAAAAT

ALL RIGHT, A *MAJOR* SETBACK.

BUT THERE IS NO *WAY* THAT I'M GOING TO LET A LITTLE THING LIKE THIS STOP ME.

BECAUSE AS BETTY BANNER ONCE SAID, SIZE ISN'T IMPORTANT.

"BETTY, HOPE SHE'S OKAY BACK IN RENO."

1-800-HOTLINE

THIS IS RIDICULOUS.

EXCUSE ME, I'M WAITING FOR MRS. MAXWELL!

THAT'S ME, BUT I'M AFRAID THAT NOW ISN'T--

OH, COME ON! NOW YOU'RE GOING TO CANCEL? AFTER I'VE WAITED HERE FOR A COUPLE HOURS?

LOOK, MISS--

I'M GLAD YOU LIKE IT, BUT...

AND I'M GOOD ON THE PHONE, AND UNDER GREAT PRESSURE.

YOU'RE HIRED!!

I... I AM?

BANNER. BETTY BANNER. LISTEN, I KNOW I DON'T HAVE A LOT OF EXPERIENCE, BUT I CAN DO THIS JOB. I THINK THE IDEA OF A NUMBER WHERE PEOPLE CAN CALL FOR ANY EMERGENCY, FROM REMOVING STAINS TO DEEP DEPRESSION, IS JUST GREAT.

BOY, YOU WOULDN'T *BELIEVE* SOME OF THE PRESSURE I'VE BEEN UNDER. WHY, JUST THE OTHER DAY...

YES! COME ON!

MEANWHILE...

I'VE *HEARD* ABOUT THIS SORT OF THING, ENTIRE HOMELESS COMMUNITIES, LIVING BENEATH THE STREETS OF NEW YORK...

...HUDDLING AROUND STEAM PIPES FOR WARMTH. FORAGING FOR FOOD.

SHE'S WAKING UP.

SO EMIL'S ONE OF THE HOMELESS NOW. DOESN'T SURPRISE ME. WHERE'S HE GOT TO *GO*?

AHHHHHHH!

HELP! HELP! YOU PEOPLE OVER THERE--

SAVE IT. IF THEY BEGGED FOR A QUARTER FROM YOU, YOU'D WALK RIGHT *PAST*.

BESIDES, THE ONLY WAY TO SURVIVE HERE IS TO BE NUMB. YOUR PLEAS WON'T TOUCH THEM.

WHO *ARE* YOU? WHY ARE YOU *DOING* THIS?

I NEVER DID *ANYTHING* TO YOU. YOU'VE GOT TO LET ME GO!

I'M THAT HIDEOUS YOU CAN'T EVEN LOOK AT ME.

YOU SEE, THAT'S PART OF MY PROBLEM IN TRYING TO EXIST ABOVE.

DOWN HERE, MY TRUE FRIENDS *ACCEPT* ME. THEY DON'T RUN AND SCREAM. WE ARE EQUALS.

DEMOCRACY WITHOUT PRETENSIONS, COMMUNISM WITHOUT THE STIGMA. IT'S ...CIVILIZED.

PLEASE. STOP CRYING, DON'T YOU *UNDERSTAND?* I'M DOING YOU A FAVOR.

F-FAVOR? WHAT ARE YOU ...*TALKING* ABOUT?

IT'S CHAOS UP THERE. PANDEMONIUM. PEOPLE ARE DYING, VANISHING WITHOUT A *TRACE.*

AND THOSE THAT ARE LEFT ARE STAMPEDING LIKE MINDLESS CATTLE. YOU'D'VE BEEN *CRUSHED* IF I HADN'T RESCUED YOU.

THANK YOU. BUT I'D PREFER TO TAKE MY CHANCES UP THERE.

I'VE LONG ADMIRED YOU. YOUR WORK IN EUROPE...STUNNING. INCREDIBLE. YOU'RE THE GREATEST ACTRESS OF OUR GENERATION.

OF COURSE, THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU... YOU WERE NADIA BLONSKY.

MY MARRIED NAME. MY HUSBAND DIED ON SOME SORT OF STATE BUSINESS...

HOW DID YOU SEE ME IN EUROPE?

ONCE I WAS A MAN, AS OTHER MEN. THEN I...CHANGED, AND COULDN'T SEE YOU ANYMORE. BUT WHEN I LEARNED YOU WERE COMING HERE, I HAD TO...TO...

YOUR VOICE IS... FAMILIAR SOMEHOW.

JUST ONE OF MANY THAT SHOUTED "BRAVO" FROM A DARKENED THEATER.

BUT WE'RE GOING TO BE TOGETHER NOW. YOU SEE... IT'S JUDGMENT DAY ABOVE.

WATCHING FROM A DISTANCE, I DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER TO APPROACH YOU. BUT WHEN PEOPLE STARTED VANISHING, I KNEW THAT IT WAS A SIGN.

A SIGN THAT WE WERE TO BE TOGETHER. AND WHEN THE HULK TRIED TO STOP ME, AND WAS YANKED AWAY BY THE HEAVENS THEMSELVES... THAT CONFIRMED IT.

WOULD IT SURPRISE YOU TERRIBLY IF I SAID I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE *TALKING* ABOUT?

I'M SPEAKING OF LOVE. OF INNER BEAUTY.

LOVE?

FOR *YOU*? YOU'RE *INSANE!* YOU'RE SOME HORRID, UGLY MONSTROSITY WITH SICK *PERVERTED* DREAMS!

AND YOU WANT TO TORTURE ME AND DRIVE ME AS INSANE AS *YOU* ARE!

EMIL... LET HER GO.

WHO SAID THAT?

DID YOU SAY THAT?

SAY *WHAT?* I DIDN'T SAY ANY-THING.

I SAID LET HER GO, EMIL.

THERE IT IS *AGAIN!* IF THIS IS SOME *TRICK--*

I HEAR *NOTHING!* I *SWEAR--!*

ONLY YOU CAN HEAR ME, EMIL. RELEASE HER.

WHO *ARE* YOU?!

DON'T YOU KNOW?

NO!

THIS IS THE LORD, EMIL, AND I'M NOT HAPPY.

NOT ONE BIT.

HALF THE WORLD, JUST... JUST *VANISHING*? THAT'S *HORRIBLE!*

NO. THE SMELL OF FOUR-WEEK-OLD MILK IS HORRIBLE. THIS GOES A BIT *BEYOND* THAT.

AND IT'S LIGHTING UP OUR PHONES LIKE A CHRISTMAS TREE. WHENEVER THERE'S A NATIONAL EMERGENCY, OUR SWITCHBOARD GOES HAYWIRE.

SIT. SIT.

OUR PURPOSE IS TO BE HERE FOR PEOPLE, AND WHEN SOMETHING LIKE *THIS* HAPPENS, THOSE PEOPLE NEED US *DESPERATELY.*

YOU MAY WIND UP FIELDING SUICIDE CALLS, WHICH I'D RATHER YOU DIDN'T DO SINCE YOU'RE RAW, BUT I DON'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE.

YOU SEEM SO CALM ABOUT IT ALL.

I'M STILL HERE. I FIGURE THAT PUTS ME AHEAD OF THE GAME.

THAT ALPHABETICAL CARD INDEX WILL GIVE YOU QUICK ANSWERS FOR COMMON EMERGENCIES--CHOKING AND SUCH. MASTER THAT AND A CALM MANNER AND YOU'VE MASTERED 90% OF THE JOB.

I DIDN'T KNOW I'D BE STAYING. CAN I CALL MY ROOMMATE? MAKE SURE SHE'S ALL RIGHT, AND TELL HER I AM?

THIS ONCE OKAY, BUT AFTER THAT, NO PERSONAL CALLS.

GOOD LUCK. YOU'LL NEED IT.

HI. WELCOME TO THE FUNNY FARM.

HI YOURSELF. MY NAME'S BETTY.

I'M VERONICA.

I WON'T MAKE JOKES IF *YOU* WON'T.

DEAL.

HMMM. MY ROOM-MATE'S PHONE IS BUSY. WELL, SHE MUST BE OKAY THEN.

ALL RIGHT, WHO *ARE* YOU?

I'M *NOT* LAUGHING.

YOU'VE SEEN MY HANDIWORK THIS EVENING, EMIL. WHY DO YOU FIND IT SO DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE IT'S ME?

WE PULLED THIS YEARS AGO AT CAL-TECH ON A GUY, USING HIS BRACES AS A RADIO RECEIVER. AND THE GAG GOT USED LATER IN THAT MOVIE ABOUT GENIUSES. HOPE EMIL NEVER SAW IT.

ALL RIGHT. IF YOU ARE THE LORD...WHAT'S MY MOTHER'S NAME?

YOU DARE TO ASK THE LORD...

FWOOOM

TRIVIA QUESTIONS?!

ARRRGGHHH!

EXCELLENT. EVEN WITH DE-CREASED MASS, I CAN STILL DO ***SERIOUS*** DAMAGE IF I'M CLOSE ENOUGH.

ARE YOU UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE LORD HAS NOTHING BETTER TO DO THAN BE QUIZZED BY YOU?!

UHHHH!

I'M SORRY! ALL RIGHT? I'M SORRY!

KRAK

PERFECT. HE DOESN'T KNOW WHERE THE PUNCHES ARE COMING FROM, BUT HE'S FEELING THEM ALL THE SAME.

NOW LET'S SEE HOW *FAR* WE CAN PUSH THIS.

EMIL... LET HER GO. SHE'S FROM YOUR PAST. NOT FROM NOW.

YOU... YOU *KNOW*? BUT... BUT THEN YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I...

LOOK AT HER, EMIL.

IF YOU KEEP HER DOWN HERE, EMIL, SHE'LL WITHER AND DIE. IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT FOR HER?

NOW LOOK AT YOURSELF.

SHE REMEMBERS A BRAVE, HANDSOME HUSBAND. IS THIS WHAT YOU'D GIVE HER INSTEAD?

ARE YOU SAYING THERE'S NO CHANCE? NO CHANCE THAT, IF I TELL HER WHO I *AM*--?

A CHANCE, YES. SHE MAY RUN INTO YOUR ARMS, REAFFIRM HER LOVE, SWEAR FEALTY TO A MONSTER. FAIRY TALES DO COME TRUE.

THERE IS A MUCH GREATER CHANCE THAT SHE WILL BE REPULSED BY YOU. HORRIFIED. AND ALL TRACES OF THE MAN SHE LOVED AND ADMIRED NAMED EMIL BLONSKY WILL BE FOREVER ERASED BY THE ABOMINATION.

IT'S JUDGMENT DAY, EMIL. A DAY OF DECISIONS.

DECIDE.

NOOO! IT'S NOT FAIR!!!

KRAK

HSSSSSSSSSSS

HE'S... HE'S *GONE!* NOW I CAN ESC--

WAAAAM

SHE LOVED ME ONCE. I'M STILL THE MAN I WAS *INSIDE*. IF SHE LOVED THAT MAN, WHY CAN'T SHE LOVE *THIS* ONE?

BECAUSE AS MUCH AS HUMANS WOULD LIKE TO BELIEVE OTHERWISE, LOVE INCORPORATES MORE THAN JUST THE SPIRIT.

HUMANS CONSIDER THE OUTWARD APPEARANCE TO BE AN ACCURATE REFLECTION OF THE INNER SOUL. LOVE ISN'T REALLY BLIND...

JUST SELECTIVELY NEARSIGHTED.

I'M... HOME?

COURT IV

IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN A DREAM. IT FELT TOO REAL.

EXCEPT... HOW CAN IT HAVE BEEN REAL... WHEN IT WAS SO *UN*REAL?

YOU MADE THE RIGHT DECISION, EMIL.

EXCEPT IN MY OWN REFLECTION.

SHE IS BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T SHE?

IT'S MY CURSE, YOU SEE, THAT I CAN PERCEIVE BEAUTY WHEREVER I LOOK. IN NATURE, IN LANGUAGE... EVERYWHERE...

I KNOW YOU'RE "THE LORD"...AND EVERYTHING YOU SAID WAS RIGHT... BUT STILL...

OH GOD, LET IT HAVE BEEN A DREAM. PLEASE.

...YOU HAVE NO IDEA OF WHAT IT'S LIKE.

TO BE TRANSFORMED INTO A MONSTER, AND REJECTED FOR YOUR APPEARANCE BY A WOMAN YOU LOVE.

OH... I KNOW... ALL TOO WELL.

GOOD-BYE, EMIL.

GOOD-BYE, HULK.

AND GOOD-BYE ...NADIA.

OH GREAT...

HERE WE GO *AGAIN.*

NEXT ISSUE: *NEW YORK BERSERK. ATALANTA AND AJAX ATTACK. THE HULK UNLEASHED. THE CREATURE CALLED--GESTALT. ALL IN--*

DARK DOMAIN

MARVEL COMICS

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NOV

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DR. STRANGE®

SORCERER SUPREME™

∞ INFINITY GAUNTLET CROSSOVER

HE WAS ONCE A SURGEON—AN ARROGANT MAN-OF-THE-WORLD SEDUCED BY MATERIAL WEALTH. THEN, WHEN A TRAGIC ACCIDENT DEPRIVED HIM OF HIS SURGICAL SKILLS, STEPHEN STRANGE DISCOVERED A SEPARATE REALITY, A HIGHER PLANE OF OCCULT FORCES IN ETERNAL CONFLICT. VOWING TO BE EARTH'S FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST MAGICAL MENACE, THE ERSTWHILE PHYSICIAN BECAME EARTH'S FOREMOST MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

DOCTOR STRANGE, SORCERER SUPREME!

SOMEWHERE BETWEEN DIMENSIONS--*

HELLO, HULK.

OR DO YOU PREFER "BRUCE"?

DOC STRANGE!

I MIGHT'VE FIGURED IT WAS *YOU* SNATCHING ME OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH-- *AGAIN.*

YOU WANNA KNOW THE TRUTH--WHAT I'D *PREFER* IS GETTING BACK TO *THANOS'S* LITTLE INTERGALACTIC HIDEAWAY--

--SO I CAN *BEAT* THE LIVING BEJEEZUS OUT OF HIM!

WE *ALMOST* HAD HIM ON THE ROPES THE *FIRST* TIME AROUND, ONLY--

*NOT TO MENTION BETWEEN PAGES 5 & 34 OF *INFINITY GAUNTLET* #4, AS WELL AS BETWEEN *HULK* #384-385.--MIKE.

ONLY HE BLINKED AN EYE-LID...

...AND HE SHRANK YOU DOWN TO ROUGHLY THE SIZE OF A BARBIE DOLL.

AT THAT, YOU WERE ONE OF THE LUCKY ONES.

SO IT'S AS BAD AS THAT BACK IN THANOS CITY, HUH?

WORSE.

THIS IS MY... ASSOCIATE, DR. ANTHONY DRUID.

CHARMED. WELL, AT LEAST I GUESS I SHOULD THANK YOU FOR ZAPPING ME BACK TO NORMAL SIZE.

I AM MY OLD SIZE AGAIN, RIGHT?

OR ARE YOU TWO REALLY MARY JANE AND SNIFFLES IN DISGUISE?

BASICALLY, THE SITUATION IS THIS: THANOS SCATTERED, EVEN ANNIHILATED MOST OF THE SUPER HERO TASK FORCE WE SENT AGAINST HIM.

ADAM WARLOCK SENT ME TO LOCATE AND RESCUE AS MANY AS I COULD.

WHY? SO WE CAN GO BE CANNON FODDER FOR HIM AGAIN?

HE'S FIGHTING OUR FIGHT-- AND YOU AGREED TO HELP.

WHO SAID I WOULDN'T? BUT I'LL DO IT MY WAY THIS TIME.

WHAT'RE WE FLOATING AROUND OUT HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF NO-WHERE FOR?

LET'S GO!

NO, HULK. WARLOCK ASKED ME TO FIND YOU AND SUCH OTHERS AS I COULD FOR "LATER RETRIEVAL."

MEANING?

MEANING A RESTORED DR. DOOM IS REMAINING IN TIBET-- AND YOU'RE WAITING RIGHT HERE-- UNTIL THE PRECISE MOMENT COMES FOR AN ALL-OUT SECOND WAVE ASSAULT TO BE LAUNCHED AGAINST THANOS.

TILL THEN, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SIT TIGHT.

AND IF I DON'T HAPPEN TO FEEL LIKE ROTTING HERE TILL THAT GOLD-PLATED CLOWN GETS IN THE MOOD TO SOUND THE CHARGE?

YOU'RE ASSUMING YOU HAVE A CHOICE.

GOODBYE, HULK.

NICE MEETING YOU.

HEY!

I SAID--

--HEY.

DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU STEPHEN, BUT THE INCREDIBLE HULK'S *NOT* SOMEONE I'D PARTICULARLY CARE TO HAVE ANGRY AT *ME*.

HE'LL *KEEP*, ANTHONY.

STRONG AS HE IS, HE'S GOT NO WAY OUT OF THAT DIMENSION I PULLED HIM INTO BEFORE WE *SUMMON* HIM.

BUT I HAVEN'T GOT TIME TO WORRY ABOUT SOOTHING *BRUISED EGOS*.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT, AND WE'VE STILL ONLY RECOVERED *TWO* OF THE OBLITERATED HEROES.

AS SOON AS WE GET BACK TO EARTH, I'VE *GOT* TO FIND SOME MORE!

I'VE GOT TO!

TO HELA AND BACK

ROY & DANN THOMAS
WRITERS
DAN LAWLIS
PENCILER
SAM DELAROSA & DONALD HUDSON
INKERS
PAT BROSSEAU
LETTERER
MIKE ROCKWITZ
EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

CLEA! WANDA! HAVE YOU HAD ANY LUCK IN DISCOVERING HOW TO RECONSTITUTE THOSE *SHARDS OF THOR*?

MASTER! YOU AND DR. DRUID HAVE RETURNED SAFELY-- THANKS BE TO THE GODS OF ALL THE WOVEN WORLDS!

I'M... AFRAID *NOT*, STEPHEN.

THEY MAY CALL ME THE *SCARLET WITCH*-- BUT I HARDLY KNOW WHERE TO *BEGIN*.

I'M SORRY. IT'S *MY* FAULT.

WANDA, YOUR POWERS ARE MOSTLY THOSE OF A *MUTANT*, NOT A TRUE WITCH...

...AND CLEA'S MYSTIC PROWESS IS MUCH DIMINISHED SINCE SHE NO LONGER RULES THE *DARK DIMENSION*.

I MUST GIVE THESE FRAGMENTS MY *OWN* FULL ATTENTION...

DRUID, EVEN A *TROLL* COULD SEE HOW *HURT* RINTRAH WAS WHEN DOC DIDN'T EVEN RETURN HIS GREETING.

HE'S GOT A LOT ON HIS *MIND*, PIP.

STILL, WOULDN'TA KILLED HIM TO GIVE HIS APPRENTICE A PAT ON THE HORNS.

OL' BULLWINKLE DOES EVERYTHING BUT BRING HIM HIS PIPE AND SLIPPERS!

ARE YOU CERTAIN THESE CRYSTAL SHARDS *CAN* BE RECONSTITUTED INTO THOR?

FRANKLY-- *NO*.

STEPHEN, THERE'S SOMETHING... *ODD*, ABOUT THEM.

THEY DON'T EVEN GIVE OFF THE *AURA* I'D EXPECT FROM THE REMNANTS OF A TRANSMUTATED *THUNDER GOD*.

CLEA... DR. STRANGE... THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE GOT TO *TELL* YOU...

THE *THOR* WHO FOUGHT THANOS TILL THE TITAN TURNED HIM AND HIS HAMMER TO CRYSTAL AND *SHATTERED* THEM BOTH--

SOME OF US LONGTIME AVENGERS *DON'T* THINK THAT *WAS* THE REAL THOR.

I BELIEVE I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.

BESIDES THE BEARD AND MASK-- EVEN HIS *SPEECH PATTERNS* WERE VASTLY DIFFERENT.

YOU'RE MORE DOWN-TO-EARTH NOW, TOO--BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE AN *IMPOSTOR*.

IT'S *MORE* THAN THAT...

WELL, *WHOEVER* HE WAS, THAT POOR DOOMED MAN DEFINITELY PARTOOK OF *THOR'S ESSENCE*, AT LEAST.

WE'VE ALL WONDERED IF HE ISN'T SOME KIND OF--WELL, *STAND-IN* FOR THE THUNDER GOD.

I REMEMBER THOR-- THE VERY DEFINITELY *TRUE* THOR--TELLING ME ONCE HOW, THOUGH HE WAS THE SON OF *ODIN* AND OF THE *EARTH*...

...STILL HE, LIKE ALL *ASGARDIANS*, IS DESCENDED FROM BEINGS CREATED IN THE *LANDS OF FIRE AND ICE*, BEYOND ALL HOPE OF MORTAL PERCEIVING.

OF COURSE, IT SOUNDED A LOT MORE... *POETIC*... WHEN *HE* SAID IT.

YES! THAT'S WHAT WE SHOULD DO!

WHAT?

THE LANDS OF FIRE AND ICE IN NORSE LEGEND-- MUSPELHEIM AND NIFLHEIM-- THEY'RE WHERE WE SHOULD TAKE THE SHARDS!

GOOD! THEM I'M READY TJ--

YOU'RE READY TO DROP, DRUID. GET YOURSELF SOME SLEEP.

CLEA AND WANDA CAN ACCOMPANY ME THIS TIME.

THIS MAY BE OUR ONLY CHANCE TO SAVE THOR--AND TO ADD HIS GREAT POWER TO THE BATTLE AGAINST THANOS.

LET THE ORB OF AGAMOTTO REVEAL TWIN LANDS OF SNOW AND FLAME-- WHERE THE FROST-GIANT YMIR DID CONGEAL-- FROM WHOM GODS AND GIANTS CAME!

WARM WINDS TO NORTH FROM NIFLHEIM DID BLOW, AND MIGHTY GLACIERS DID ENWRAP-- CAUSED MELTED ICE FROM MUSPELHEIM TO FLOW--

--AND FILL THE YAWNING GINNUNGAGAP!

AND THAT, LADIES, IS PRECISELY WHERE WE'RE GOING--RIGHT NOW!

WE'VE GOT THE SHARDS, STEPHEN

HANDLE THEM WITH CARE.

IF WE LOSE EVEN A SINGLE ONE, RE-CREATION WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE IMPOSSIBLE!

MASTER-- WHAT CAN I DO TO--?

SOMEONE'S GOT TO HOLD THE FORT, RINTRAH.

AND THAT SOMEONE IS YOUR FAITHFUL DISCIPLE...

...AS ALWAYS.

YOU ASK ME, BULLWINKLE, YOU OUGHT TO *DUMP* EL SORCERER SUPREMO--

--AND APPRENTICE YOURSELF INSTEAD TO *SIEGFRIED AND ROY.*

MORE OF A *FUTURE* IN IT.

PERHAPS YOU ARE RIGHT, FRIEND PIP. THE MASTER SEEMS TOO BUSY *SAFEGUARDING* THIS ASTRAL PLANE EVER TO *TRAIN* ANYONE.

PERHAPS I SHOULD LEAVE EARTH AND APPRENTICE MYSELF ANEW TO *ENITHARMON THE WEAVER.*

AT LEAST I WOULD BE LEARNING A *TRADE.*

THERE YOU GO! THIS WAY, YOU'RE SO DEPRESSED YOU DIDN'T EVEN JUMP ON ME FOR *LIGHTING UP* IN DOC'S PRECIOUS *SANCTUM SANCTORUM.*

HEY! LOOKS LIKE HE LEFT HIS *CRYSTAL BALL* TURNED ON OVER HERE.

THAT GONNA DO WEIRD AND WONDROUS THINGS TO YOUR *ELECTRIC BILL?*

WHY--SO HE *DID!*

MOST ATYPICALLY *CARELESS* OF THE MASTER.

IT MUST BE IN A *SEARCH MODE.*

IMAGES KEEP *CHANG-ING--* BUT *HOLD* IT--

I *KNOW* THOSE GUYS! *FIRELORD--* AND *DRAX THE DESTROYER--* EVIDENTLY TRAPPED IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS OF A FEW ZILLION *YEARS* AGO.

ARE *THEY* POWERFUL ENOUGH TO HELP DR. STRANGE, PIP?

WELL, SO FAR, *NOBODY'S* GOT MUCH OF A TRACK RECORD AGAINST *THANOS--* BUT *YEAH,* THEY-- *HEY!*

ARE *YOU* THINKING WHAT *I'M* THINKING?

I SUSPECT SO... BUT FIRST...

PUT OUT THAT CIGAR!

AH! NOW *THAT'S* MY PAL *BULL-WINKLE!*

...THIS PLACE-- IT SEEMS NEARLY AS BLACK AS THE *DARK DIMENSION* ITSELF!

I DON'T SEE EITHER FIRE *OR* ICE.

I FELT A POWERFUL FORCE *RESISTING* MY SPELL TO TAKE US DIRECTLY THERE ...

...A FORCE WHICH EMANATED FROM *HERE*.

WELL, WHEREVER *"HERE"* IS, STEPHEN--

--IT SEEMS TO HAVE A VICIOUS *GUARD DOG!*

RRRRRRRR

CERBERUS!

BUT--ISN'T HE A PART OF *GREEK* MYTH-- NOT *NORSE*?

WHATEVER HE IS--I'LL THROW A MUTANT *HEX BOLT* AT HIM--

--AND GIVE THOSE THREE HEADS ENOUGH *BAD LUCK* THAT THEY *BITE* EACH OTHER!

NO GOOD! HE'D PREFER A *BONE*--

--MINE!

SNARL

CLEA --!

I'M ADDING *MY* MAGIC TO *YOURS*, MY LOVE!

AND LET'S PRAY TO HOGGOTH THAT IT'S *JUST ENOUGH* --

--TO LEAVE WANDA'S *FACE* INTACT!

ULP!

SNAPT!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

GRAARR

YES -- BUT *SCIENCE* DOESN'T SEEM TO WORK IN THIS HELLISH PLACE --

--ONLY *MAGIC*.

I'VE NEVER FELT ... SO HORRIBLY *HELP-LESS* ...

DON'T LET SUCH FEELINGS *OVER-WHELM* YOU, WANDA.

SOONER OR LATER, *EVERYONE* COMES UP AGAINST *SOME* SITUATION IN WHICH HE FEELS HELPLESS.

AND *THOU*, DR. STRANGE --

--HAST ONLY NOW ENCOUNTERED *THINE OWN!*

HELA!

IS *THAT* WHERE WE ARE THEN?

THE KINGDOM OF THE NORSE *QUEEN OF THE DEAD?*

YES, CLEA. IT WAS *HELA* WHO PULLED US HERE -- WHEN I SET OUR COURSE FOR OTHER SPHERES.

WHY HAVE YOU DONE THIS, HELA?

IN MY DOMAIN, 'TIS I WHO ASK THE QUESTIONS.

WHOM *SEEK* YE THREE HERE?

YOU KNOW *GOOD AND WELL* WHAT --

THOR, HELA!

WE SEEK THE *LIFE OF THOR!*

SEEK HIM NOT HERE--NOR IN *VALHALLA*--FOR HE BE NOT TRULY DEAD.

BUT THESE *SHARDS* --

--BOTH *ARE* AND ARE *NOT* THE GOD OF THUNDER.

THEN LET US PASS ON TO THE LANDS OF FIRE AND ICE, AND LEARN THE TRUTH FOR *OURSELVES!*

WE HAVE *RESPONS!-BILITIES*--AND YOU'RE *INTERFER-ING* WITH THEM!

PRESUME NOT TO ORDER *HELA* ABOUT, MAGE!

MY OLYMPIAN COUNTERPART *PLUTO* DID SO--AND IT COST HIM HIS THREE-HEADED *HOUND.*

OH, I SHALL *RETURN* CERBERUS TO HIM, IN MINE OWN GOOD TIME--

RRRRR

--BUT MEANWHILE, I *UNLEASH* HIM UPON THOSE WHO *TRES-PASS* IN MY REALM!

CLEA! DO WHAT YOU CAN AGAINST CERBERUS--WHILE I HURL MY OWN SPELLS AGAINST *HELA!*

THE *FLAMES OF THE FALTINE* HOLD THE BEAST AT BAY--FOR THE MOMENT.

THOU *DAREST* ATTACK HELA, IN HER OWN DARK DOMAIN?

TRULY, SUCH EFFRONTERY IS AS *BRAZEN* AS IT BE *FORE-DOOMED TO FAILURE!*

PERHAPS! BUT A *WORLD* IS AT STAKE--A WORLD I AM PLEDGED TO *PROTECT.*

IF I HAD BUT A *FRACTION* OF THE POWER AT MY DISPOSAL, I STILL WOULD *FIGHT* YOU --TILL ONE OF US *GAVE WAY!*

AND IT WOULD BE *YOU,* SORCERER, WHO CAME TO *CONQUER*--AND RE-MAINED TO *SERVE.*

THOR IS NEEDED, HELA, IN THE COMING BATTLE AGAINST *THANOS*--

--AND I SHALL *RE-CREATE* HIM, OR *DIE* IN THE TRYING!

HA HA HA HA

ARE OUR PATHETIC ATTEMPTS AT HEROISM REALLY THAT *HUMOROUS* TO YOU, QUEEN OF HEL?

ON THE CONTRARY-- YOUR OWN DO *IMPRESS* ME GREATLY.

SMALL WONDER NOBLE *ODIN* DOTH EVER STRIVE TO GATHER THE *BRAVEST* MORTAL SOULS UNTO HIMSELF IN *VALHALLA*.

THE POOR, PITIFUL WRETCHES WHO MOSTLY FIND THEIR WAY *HERE* ARE WORTH LITTLE, BY COMPARISON.

IF THIS IS SOME KIND OF *TRICK*-- I SWEAR, DEATH-GODDESS OR *NO* DEATH-GODDESS...

I SUSPECT SHE'S TELLING THE *TRUTH*, STEPHEN.

EVEN *CERBERUS* HAS STOPPED WORRYING MY FIRE-SHIELD.

HELA LEAVES *LYING* TO THE LIKES OF *LOKI* AND THE *LIVING*.

I RULE *HEL*, AYE-- BUT ALSO *NIFLHEIM*, A LAND COLD AS DEATH.

I DIVERTED YOU HERE BECAUSE *NONE* MAY REACH NIFLHEIM WITHOUT MY *PERMISSION*--

--PERMISSION WHICH IS HEREBY *GRANTED* TO STEPHEN STRANGE.

AND TO THE SORCER-ESSES WHO ACCOMPANY ME, HELA!

AYE, VERY WELL! VERILY, THOU *DOST* AMUSE ME.

ONE DAY SOON, I MAY *CLAIM* THEE FOR MY REALM-- JUST FOR THE PLEAS-URE OF THY *COMPANY*.

I'LL CROSS THAT RAINBOW BRIDGE WHEN I *COME* TO IT.

FOR TODAY-- SIMPLY ACCEPT THE *GRATITUDE* OF EARTH'S SORCERER SUPREME.

CLEA, WANDA-- *HURRY!*

FAREWELL, MAGE-- FOR *NOW!*

FIREHEAD-- TELL DRAX AGAIN--WHERE DID BIG LIZARDS COME FROM?

THE NAME IS FIRELORD--

--AND THEY DIDN'T COME FROM ANYWHERE!

THEY WERE HATCHED HERE.

HRONK

WE'RE THE ONES WHO WERE HURLED BACK TO THE JURASSIC BY THANOS!

IS THAT CLEAR ENOUGH?

THAM

CLEAR AS ANYTHING EVER GETS-- NOW.

LIZARD-- GO AWAY!

HURT THAT ONE--BUT PLENTY MORE.

ONE-- TWO-- UH--

THE NUMBER YOU'RE GROPING FOR IS THREE!

STILL, THEY ARE BACKING OFF. IT WOULD SEEM WE'VE--

--WON--?!

WOMPF

HUH? LIZARDS DROP FROM SKY NOW?

PIP AND I ARE HARDLY OF THE LONG-EXTINCT SAURIAN PERSUASION, MY FELLOW GREEN-SKIN.

GET BACK, FIREHEAD! DRAX WILL STOMP MONSTER WITH FACE LIKE BULL

STOP, DESTROYER! THESE TWO ARE FRIENDS OF WARLOCK AND DR. STRANGE.

DARN TOOTIN'!

YOU SEE, MY MASTER HAS BEEN ASKED BY ADAM WARLOCK TO RESCUE FORCES FOR A ***SECOND ASSAULT*** ON THANOS,

YOU MAY NOW KISS OUR FEET.

NO, THANKS. BUT IF THIS IS A ***RESCUE***--

--HOW DO WE GET BACK TO WHAT'S LEFT OF THE ***TWENTIETH CENTURY?***

HOW DO YOU ***THINK***, CURLY?

THROUGH THE SAME ***TIME-HOLE*** MY GOOD BUDDY HERE CREATED FOR US--

--WITH THE ***MAGIC*** HE'S LEARNED FROM ***STRA***--

HUH?

THE ***TIME-HOLE***-- IT'S GOING--

--***GOING***--

--GONE.

WELL? DON'T JUST STAND THERE, BULLWINKLE. CONJURE UP ANOTHER ONE, AND WE'RE ***OUTTA*** HERE!

BUT--I ***CANNOT!***

SAY WHAT?

MY SPELL SUFFICED TO CREATE A TEMPORAL APERTURE ONLY BECAUSE OF THE PROXIMITY OF THE ***ORB OF AGAMOTTO***-- WHICH IS NOW SOME MILLIONS OF YEARS DISTANT.

WONDERFUL! SO NOW WE'RE ***ALL*** TRAPPED IN THE JURASSIC!

NOT UNDER-STAND...

TRUST ME, DRAX. DON'T TRY!

...SO THIS IS WHERE IT ALL BEGAN!

YES--FOR ALL THE BEINGS THE VIKINGS ONCE LUMPED UNDER THE HEADINGS "GODS" AND "GIANTS."

CLEARLY, THIS NETHER REALM IS A POWERFUL NEXUS FOR THE FORCES OF CREATION.

INCREDIBLE! ON ONE SIDE OF THE GAP IT'S ALL SNOW AND ICE--

--AND ON THE OTHER, VOLCANOES SPEW OUT FIERY LAVA OVER EVERY-THING!

BUT THE AREA WE'RE INTERESTED IN IS THAT EVER-SIZZLING "TWILIGHT ZONE" IN BETWEEN, CORRECT?

OR WILL SOMEONE HERE JUST STEER US TO A THIRD LOCALE?

NO, WANDA, IT'S HERE THE THUNDER GOD WILL BE RE-CONSTITUTED--IF AT ALL!

THEN, HADN'T WE BETTER--?

RIGHT, IT WAS WHEN THE ICE OF NIFLHEIM MET THE FIRES OF MUS-PELHEIM, THAT THE FIRST FROST-GIANT WAS BORN--

--AND FROM HIM, BORI, THE FIRST TRUE ANCESTOR OF THE ASGARDIANS.

I'LL LEVITATE THE SHARDS OUT OVER THE GINNUNGAGAP, AND START THE IN-CANTATION.

BE CAREFUL, STEPHEN...

FIRST SENDING ALL THOSE HEROES TO THANOS'S DOMAIN--THEN CREATING VARIOUS TIME PORTALS--

I'M TERRIBLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE TOLL IT'S ALL TAKEN ON YOU!

I'LL HAVE TO TAKE MY CHANCES, CLEA--

--JUST LIKE THE REST OF THE KNOWN UNIVERSE.

NOW, IF MY HASTY PERUSAL OF THE BOOK OF THE VISHANTI WAS RIGHT--I'VE GOT TO CHANT THIS SPELL OVER AND OVER--

XIC SHARDIA KANAA QAHOLOM CACULHA HURACAAN THOR...

XIC SHARDIA KANAA QAHOLOM CACULHA HURACAAN THOR...

WELL, HERE THEY COME!

I WAS WONDERING WHEN THEY'D SHOW UP:

THE FROSTLINGS, GUARDIANS OF NIFLHEIM UNDER THE FROST GIANTS (NOT TO MENTION HELA)--

--AND THEIR BITTER FOES, THE FIRE-TROLLS, SUB-LORDS OF MUSPELHEIM!

HEAR ME BEING OF ICE AND FLAME--

I'VE NO INTENTION OF TRESPASSING ON EITHER OF YOUR DOMAINS.

ONCE I'VE RE-FORGED THESE CRYSTAL SHARDS IN THE GINNUNGAGAP, THE SORCERESSES AND I WILL BE ON OUR WAY.

AYE, AND WHEN YOU ARE FINISHED, MORTAL MAGE--

--THOR, THE THUNDERER, WILL WALK ONCE MORE AMID THE WORLDS!

DID YOU TRULY BELIEVE WE WOULD LET YOU RESTORE ONE WHO HAS SO OFTEN WRONGED US AND OUR ILLUSTRIOUS ANCESTOR, YMIR THE FROST GIANT?

BUT HELA--

SHE MERELY LET YOU ENTER OUR REALM. 'TIS OUR DECISION WHETHER YOU EVER LEAVE AGAIN.

NOR LOOK YE FOR SUCCOR FROM THE SPAWN OF SURTUR THE FIRE DEMON, WIZARD!

FOR, 'TIS WRITTEN THAT ON THE DAY OF RAGNAROK, OUR FOREBEAR SHALL BURST FREE OF THE EARTH, WHEREIN ODIN HAS IMPRISONED HIM.

'TWOULD BE MUCH TO SURTUR'S LIKING IF THERE WERE NO THUNDER GOD WAITING TO OPPOSE HIM!

FOR ONCE, THEN, FIRE-TROLLS, WE ARE AGREED.

AYE! THE INTRUDERS MUST DIE!

THE SHIELD OF SERAPHIM WILL PROTECT ME FOR THE MOMENT--

BUT I DARE NOT LET WHAT'S LEFT OF *THOR* FALL INTO THE GAP--OR EITHER SIDE OF IT--

--EVEN IF THE DISTRACTION LEAVES ME MOMENTARILY *UNGUARDED!*

AS ALWAYS, STEPHEN, YOU HAVE PROBLEMS *DELEGATING AUTHORITY.*

DID YOU THINK I LEFT *ALL* MY POWERS BEHIND ME IN THE *DARK DIMENSION?*

LET'S SEE HOW THE *FROSTLINGS* LIKE A NICE, DIVERTED *RAIN OF FLAME--*

--AND HOW THE LOCAL *FIREMEN* ENJOY BEING PELTED BY A HURRICANE OF *HAIL!*

VERILY, ENCHANTRESS--

--WE LIKE IT NOT!

CLEA!

DON'T WORRY! MY OWN SHIELD'S HOLDING-- FOR *NOW!*

I'M AFRAID THERE ARE *MORE* OF BOTH GROUPS THAN I THOUGHT THERE'D BE.

AT LEAST WE'RE *HOLDING OUR OWN* AGAINST THEM!

YES--BUT NOTHING'S GOING TO TRANSMUTATE THOSE *SHARDS* UNLESS I CAN CHANT THE *SPELL* OVER THEM--

--AND *TIME'S RUNNING OUT!*

WHILE I STAND AROUND UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING--

--EXCEPT, OF COURSE, TO DODGE THE OCCASIONAL FROSTLING OR FIRE-TROLL WHO WANTS AN EASIER TARGET THAN STEPHEN AND CLEA!

THAT WAS CLOSE!

I'M THE SCARLET WITCH!

WITH A NAME LIKE THAT, YOU'D THINK I'D BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING USEFUL IN A WORLD WHERE ONLY MAGIC WORKS.

AND-- PERHAPS I CAN!

THE SPELL'S STILL KEEPING THE FRAGMENTS AFLOAT OVER THE YAWNING GAP BETWEEN FIRE AND ICE...

...AND AGATHA HARKNESS'S TRAINING GAVE ME A GOOD MEMORY FOR INCANTATIONS, SO...

XIC SHARDIA KANAA QAHOLOM CACULHA HURACAAN THOR...

NOTHING.

AGAIN, THEN--

XIC SHARDIA KANAA QAHOLOM CACULHA HURACAAN THOR...

AND PAY NO ATTENTION TO THE SNOWMAN CREEPING UP ON YOU, WANDA!

SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO THE SHARDS--I CAN FEEL IT--

--THOUGH IT MAY OR MAY NOT BE WHAT WE NEED TO HAPPEN TO THEM!

XIC SHARDIA KANAA QAHOLOM CACULHA HURACAAN THOR! FOR PITY'S SAKE--

XIC SHARDIA KANAA QAHOLOM CACULHA HURACAAN THOR!

KRA-KOOOM

SLAMMM

STEPHEN--THAT IS WHAT I THINK IT IS--ISN'T IT?

BY HOGGOTH--

--I THINK SHE'S GOT IT!

AND SO DO I, DR. STRANGE-- NOW!

IT IS DR. STRANGE, ISN'T IT?

I'M THOR!

OR AT LEAST AN AMAZING SIMULATION!

WHOEVER YOU REALLY ARE --WELCOME BACK!

NOW, LET'S GO GET 'EM!

ACTUALLY, IT DOESN'T LOOK AS IF WE'LL HAVE TO.

COME, FROSTLINGS! HELA SENT THE MAGE HERE.

LET HER DRIVE THEM FROM THE GINNUNGAGAP!

TURN AND FIGHT, YOU FIERY FOOLS-- FOR THE HONOR OF MUSPELHEIM!

AGAINST BOTH ASGARDIAN AND SORCERERS?

PERHAPS... YOU ARE RIGHT...

SO, I MAY AS WELL ADMIT-- I'M ERIK MASTERSON, CURRENT STAND-IN FOR THOR.

YOU'VE RECOVERED YOUR POISE QUICKLY-- FOR SOMEONE WHO WAS RECENTLY SHATTERED INTO A THOUSAND PIECES.

YOU MEAN-- THAT REALLY HAPPENED?

I THOUGHT IT--AND THE BATTLE WITH THANOS --WERE JUST SOME BAD DREAM I WOKE UP FROM.

THAT MEANS THE EARTH'S STILL IN DANGER FROM THAT ROCK-FACED MADMAN!

GUESS WE'D BETTER GET ON THE STICK, RIGHT?

STEPHEN, I'VE GOT TO KNOW--DID YOU REALIZE I'D BE USEFUL TO YOU BECAUSE OF MY MEMORY?

THAT "SORCERER SUPREME" EPITHET AFTER MY NAME HARDLY MEANS I'M OMNISCIENT, WANDA.

DR. DOOM-- THE HULK-- NOW THOR--THE THREE OF US, OF COURSE-- EVEN DR. DRUID AND RINTRAH--

DO YOU THINK WE'LL PASS FOR THE SECOND FRONT ADAM WARLOCK WANTED YOU TO AS-SEMBLE?

IT WAS PHYSICAL POWER WARLOCK NEEDED, CLEA--SO WE'RE STILL A BIT SHORT. BUT--

WAIT! I THINK I SENSE--

YES.

OPENING MY MIND, I CAN FEEL PSYCHIC EMA-NATIONS REACHING OUT TO ME ACROSS TIME AND SPACE.

WE'VE GOT TO GO!

WE NEED YOU TO WAIT HERE, ERIK-- THOR--TILL WE CAN HIT THANOS WITH EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT!

ALL RIGHT--BUT HURRY!

I'VE GOT A FAMILY BACK ON EARTH!

NOW LET'S SEE WHAT WE--

RINTRAH?!

AND PIP--WITH FIRELORD AND THE DESTROYER!

TOASTING MARSHMALLOWS, NO LESS!

I ALWAYS TRY TO KEEP A *LITTLE* SOMETHING TUCKED UP MY LOINCLOTH FOR AN EMERGENCY.

AN EMERGENCY, MASTER, WHICH I FEAR I *PRECIPITATED*--

--BY IMPULSIVELY FOLLOWING A THAUMATURGICAL *TRAIL* HERE.

ALAS, MY HUMBLE MAGICAL SKILLS WERE NOT SUFFICIENT TO *SUSTAIN* THE TIME-PORTAL I GENERATED.

I BUT THANK THE *WEAVERS OF THE WORLDS* THAT I WAS ABLE TO CONTACT YOU ACROSS THE AGES.

OTHERWISE, MY MISTAKE MIGHT HAVE *COST* THESE THREE GUILTLESS ONES A LIFETIME IN EARTH'S *JURASSIC ERA*.

WE'LL TALK ABOUT THAT *LATER*, RINTRAH.

RIGHT NOW, WE'VE GOT A *WAR* TO GET BACK TO--

--THOUGH WE MUST LEAVE *YOU TWO* IN THIS NETHERWORLD WITH *THOR* FOR THE MOMENT.

HUH? *DRAX* WANTS TO GO HIT *THANOS*-- NOW!

I DISLIKE THE DELAY MYSELF, DESTROYER--BUT AT THIS POINT WE MUST TRUST DR. STRANGE.

MAKE YOURSELVES AT *HOME*, GUYS!

MASTER--ONCE AGAIN, THIS FOOLISH PERSON CAN ONLY ABJECTLY BEG YOUR *FORGIVENESS* FOR--

YOU DID *SPLENDIDLY*, RINTRAH!

I DID?

IF I WERE BETTER AT--AS CLEA WOULD PUT IT--"*DELEGATING RESPONSIBILITY*"--YOU WOULD STILL HAVE FOUND DRAX AND FIRELORD--

--BUT I WOULDN'T HAVE THEN BEEN TOTALLY DEPENDENT UPON *YOU* TRACING *ME*!

I'M *PROUD* OF YOU, DISCIPLE...

...AND I'M GOING TO TAKE THE TIME TO TURN YOU INTO THE *MASTER MAGICIAN* YOU'VE ALWAYS HAD IT IN YOU TO BE!

ALL WE HAVE TO DO *FIRST*--

--IS TO *SURVIVE* THE COMING ARMAGEDDON WITH *THANOS*!

FOR WHICH, SEE ***INFINITY GAUNTLET #6!*** *AND THEN, IN* ***DOC #36's*** *AWESOME EPILOGUE--*

AT WAR WITH ADAM WARLOCK!

HOTTEST COMICS — *OLD AND NEW*

PRICE GUIDE — *SILVER AGE TO PRESENT*

RON LIM — *INTERVIEW*

***WIZARD #5* COVER** BY RON LIM

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THE SILVER SURFER®

∞ INFINITY GAUNTLET CROSSOVER

30TH ANNIVERSARY

THE FANTASTIC FOUR
1961-1991

TO SAVE HIS PLANET, **NORRIN RADD** SURRENDERED HIS FREEDOM TO BECOME HERALD TO THE WORLD-DEVOURING **GALACTUS**. COATED WITH GALACTIC GLAZE, GIVEN A SURFBOARD OBEYING HIS MENTAL COMMANDS, AND GRANTED THE POWER COSMIC, HE NOW SOARS THE UNIVERSE A SHINING SENTINEL OF THE SPACEWAYS! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . . **THE SILVER SURFER!**

ADAM WARLOCK, OUR LEADER BY ACCLAMATION, OBVIOUSLY HAS PLANS FOR HIS OLD FOE. PLANS THAT COULD BE UPSET BY THE SURFER'S RASH BEHAVIOR.

SO HE CALLS FOR REIN-FORCEMENTS. I MANAGE TO LOCATE ONLY FIVE MEMBERS OF OUR COALITION, BUT IT IS A POWERFUL QUINTET.

THOR.

DRAX THE DESTROYER.

FIRELORD.

DOCTOR DOOM.

THE HULK.

THERE MUST BE PEACE BETWEEN THESE TWO COSMIC OPPONENTS IF THE UNIVERSE IS TO SURVIVE. EVEN IF IT MUST BE A FORCED PEACE.

THE CHAIN OF EVENTS THAT LEADS US TO AN ALLIANCE WITH THANOS IS INDEED STRANGE.

HE IS A CONSUMMATE VILLAIN, AND UNTIL RECENTLY, POSSESSED THE INFINITY GAUNTLET.

BUT THANOS LOST THAT ULTIMATE POWER TO THE DEMENTED NEBULA. SHE IS NOW OUR PRIME CONCERN.

HER INTELLECT IS NOT UP TO GODHOOD.

YOU WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE YOURS IS?!

YOU ARE AS MAD AS YOUR GRANDDAUGHTER!

DO NOT ANTAGONIZE ME FURTHER, SURFER.

HOLD HIM, DESTROYER!

YOUR PLAYMATES WON'T SAVE YOU THIS TIME!

YOU ARE THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE PRAYING FOR INTERVENTION.

AND HERE I THOUGHT I WAS THE ONE WITH THE BAD TEMPER.

CEASE THIS FOOLISHNESS!

SO MUCH FOR *DIPLOMACY.* BUT THAT'S OKAY.

I LIKE THIS *BETTER.*

STEPHEN, CAN YOU BE OF *ASSISTANCE?*

PERHAPS *SORCERY* PAIRED WITH *BRUTE FORCE* MIGHT ACCOMPLISH WHAT *NEITHER* ALONE COULD.

WELL DONE. YOUR *MYSTIC ARTS* AGAIN PROVE *INVALUABLE.*

I HOPE THE EFFORT ISN'T IN *VAIN.*

UNLESS THESE *BICKERING* FOOLS COME TO SOME ACCORD, *ALL* OUR EFFORTS ARE WASTED.

WE CANNOT *DEFEAT* NEBULA WITH ANYTHING LESS THAN *COMPLETE* UNITY.

OF THAT I AM *WELL AWARE.*

BUT TAKE HEART, STEPHEN. *SURELY* THEY WILL LISTEN TO *REASON.*

YOU BOTH KNOW THE *SERIOUSNESS* OF THE SITUATION WE FACE.

NEBULA WIELDS THE INFINITY GAUNTLET. HER *INSANITY,* AS WELL AS HER *POWER* IS ABSOLUTE.

IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF *TIME* BEFORE SHE TIRES OF THE *NARROW* SCOPE OF HER *AMUSEMENTS...*

"...AND TURNS HER ATTENTION TO THE *UNIVERSE* AT LARGE."

I ASK YOU TO POOL YOUR STRENGTHS IN ORDER TO AVERT DISASTER.

I ASK YOU TO PUT ASIDE YOUR DIFFERENCES FOR THE GOOD OF ALL THAT EXISTS.

BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

YOU ARE AMONG THE WISEST BEINGS I KNOW, STEPHEN STRANGE.

BUT YOU ARE DELUDED IF YOU BELIEVE THANOS CAN BE TRUSTED. I WILL NOT ALLOW HIS TREACHERY TO BE OUR UNDOING.

I'M FLATTERED BY YOUR ASSESSMENT OF MY CHARACTER, SURFER.

AN ALLIANCE IS OUT OF THE QUESTION IF YOU THINK SO LITTLE OF MY HONOR.

YOU HAVE OFFENDED ME. LET THE UNIVERSE BURN!

IDIOTS! STUBBORN IDIOTS!

YOUR PRIDE WILL DESTROY US ALL!

FOOLS. STRANGE.

GIVE ME YOUR ATTENTION. OTHER OPTIONS YET EXIST.

IN MY HOMELAND, WHEN TWO MEN FIND THEMSELVES AT SUCH AN IMPASSE, THE TRADITIONAL METHOD OF SETTLEMENT IS EMPLOYED.

THE DUEL.

DUEL? ARE YOU MAD AS WELL?

WE NEED THEM *BOTH* ALIVE. AND ANY *COMBAT* BETWEEN THE SURFER AND THANOS MIGHT WELL *LEVEL* NEW YORK.

NO, IT'S FOLLY.

YOU COULD CONTROL THE CONTEST.

SEND THEM TO A *REALM* WHERE THEY POSE NO THREAT, SOMEWHERE THEIR POWERS WOULDN'T BE SO *DEADLY*.

IT'S THE *ONLY* ANSWER, STEPHEN. LET THEM *SETTLE* THEIR ARGUMENTS ONCE AND FOR ALL.

OTHERWISE, WE SHALL *ALL* SURELY DIE.

BUT THE *RISK* INVOLVED... WHAT *SCENARIO* COULD POSSIBLY BE SUITABLE?

SIR THOMAS MALLORY

LE MORTE d'ARTHUR

Pendragon

Gowain and the Green knight

The Once and Future King

T.H. WHITE

The BOOK of MERLIN

CHIVALRY

CAMELOT 4005

JIM STARLIN

ARTHUR REX

I HAVE A *PROPOSITION* FOR YOU, GENTLEMEN...

...SETTLE YOUR GRIEVANCES ONLY IN COMBAT, THEN *SO BE IT.*

I WILL TRANSPORT YOUR *ESSENCES* TO A PLANE WHERE YOUR POWERS WILL BE SOMEWHAT... *ALTERED.*

THE CONTEST WILL LAST UNTIL ONE OF YOU IS *INCAPACITATED* OR *SURRENDERS.* DEADLY FORCE IS *FORBIDDEN.*

YOUR *PHYSICAL* BODIES REMAIN HERE. *MYSTIC SHACKLES* WILL ASSURE THEIR SAFETY.

I WILL *MONITOR* THE DUEL, AND *HALT* IT IF NECESSARY. AT ITS *CONCLUSION,* YOU WILL *BOTH* RETURN HERE AND JOIN OUR COMMON CAUSE.

ARE WE *AGREED?*

YES.

PROCEED.

THEN IT *BEGINS.*

HOW QUAINT.

THE GOOD DOCTOR HAS A SENSE OF THE *DRAMATIC.*

SAVE YOUR *PRATTLE.*

LET'S GET *ON* WITH IT.

INDEED. *LET'S.*

WHAT'S *THIS?*

STRANGE HAS *STOLEN* MY POWER COSMIC.

EVER THE *SUSPICIOUS* ONE, AREN'T YOU, SURFER?

WE HAVE BEEN SENT TO A PLANE ON WHICH OUR *USUAL ENERGIES* DO NOT FUNCTION AS EXPECTED. STRANGE *SAID* AS MUCH.

I MAY BE *WITHOUT* MY USUAL MEANS OF COMBAT...

...BUT I AM *FAR* FROM *DEFENSELESS*

APPARENTLY OUR BATTLE IS TO BE FOUGHT BY *SOMEONE ELSE'S* RULES.

PREPARE YOURSELF THANOS. YOU HAVE *MUCH* TO ANSWER FOR.

HEH.

WHAT'S THE *QUESTION?*

LOOK ALIVE, SURFER.

I'D *HATE* FOR THIS TO END SO QUICKLY.

YOUR METHODS ARE *UNCHANGED*, THANOS.

I SEE *FAIR PLAY* IS STILL A *FOREIGN* CONCEPT TO YOU.

"*ALL* WORK AND *NO* FAIR PLAY."

WORDS TO *LIVE* BY.

FOR YOU, PERHAPS.

I CHOOSE TO ADHERE TO A *NOBLER* CODE.

YOU WOULD.

BUT **NOBILITY** RARELY WINS THE DAY!

UNNNHHH!

WHUUNNF!

BRIEF... BUT EXHILARATING.

I SHALL HAVE TO ADJUST MY ESTIMATION OF YOU *DOWNWARD.* I EXPECTED *MORE.*

YOU MUST BE *DISAPPOINTED.*

IN THE *FUTURE...*

...I'LL TRY TO KEEP YOU *ENTER-TAINED.*

YOUR EGO *BETRAYS* YOU, THANOS.

YOUR BRUSH WITH *GODHOOD* LEFT YOU *CONCEITED.*

YOU'RE WRONG.

I'VE *ALWAYS* BEEN CONCEITED.

BUT SO HAVE *YOU.* THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS I *PRIDE* MYSELF ON IT.

I HAVE *NOTHING* IN *COMMON* WITH THE LIKES OF YOU.

COME NOW, SURFER. NEED I *REMIND* YOU I'VE BEEN *INSIDE* YOUR MIND? I *KNOW* YOU.

YOUR PAST IS A *LITANY* OF MISDEEDS AND FAILURES, YET YOU SEE YOURSELF AS A KNIGHT IN *SHINING* ARMOR.

IF THAT'S NOT *CONCEIT,* I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS.

HASN'T THIS GONE ON LONG ENOUGH?

A WHILE LONGER. THE OUTCOME MUST BE DECISIVE, OR WE GAIN NOTHING.

WHATEVER MY SHORT-COMINGS, THEY ARE NOTHING COMPARED TO YOUR ATROCITIES.

YOURS IS A PAST TO BE REVILED.

AND YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR IT.

YOU'RE GOING TO REGRET EVER BEING BORN.

I ALREADY DO, YOU IMBECILE! I ALWAYS DID!

MY LIFE CONSISTS OF NOTHING SAVE AGONY.

SO YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO INFLICT AGONY UPON OTHERS?

DID YOU HAVE JUST CAUSE TO TORTURE ME, TO ABUSE MY MIND AND BODY?

DID YOU?

I DON'T LIKE THE *LOOK* OF THIS, DOC.

NOR DO I. *UNLIKELY* AS IT MAY SOUND. I'M BEGINNING TO *FEAR* FOR THANOS'S *SAFETY*.

HE IS *INTEGRAL* TO WARLOCK'S PLANS. WITHOUT HIM, WE COULD BE *LOST*.

I'M TRYING TO BRING THEM *BACK*, BUT THE SURFER'S *RESISTING*.

I CAN'T *STOP* WHATEVER'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN.

...PLEASE...

...PLEASE... *KILL ME*... PLEASE...

NO, THANOS.

NO MERCY FOR THE *MERCILESS*.

SOMETHING'S HAPPENING. THE SURFER'S *HESITATING*... THANK HEAVEN.

...THE END OF MY EXISTENCE... WILL ASSURE... *DEATH'S* ULTIMATE VICTORY...

...*THEN*... I WILL BE UNITED WITH HER... *FOREVER*...

PLEASE.

...RELEASE ME... FROM THE *PAIN*... OF LIFE...

...SEND ME INTO THE ARMS... OF MY MISTRESS...

I BEG YOU.

YOU *DESERVE* NOTHING LESS, AND I WOULD *ENJOY* NOTHING MORE.

NO ONE WOULD *GAINSAY* MY RIGHT TO REVENGE.

BUT *RIDDING* THE UNIVERSE OF *ONE* MONSTER HERALDS ITS DESTRUCTION AT THE HANDS OF *ANOTHER*.

AND THAT I *CANNOT* ALLOW.

THE DANGER HAS PASSED.

SO SURF DIDN'T SNUFF CRATER-FACE AFTER ALL. IT'S ALMOST A SHAME.

IT'S A NECESSITY. WE STILL HAVE HOPE OF THWARTING NEBULA.

YOU LIVE, THANOS. BUT ONLY BY THE MOST DISTASTEFUL OF CIRCUMSTANCES.

MAKE YOUR FORMAL SURRENDER, SO THAT WE MAY LEAVE THIS PLACE.

SURRENDER?

THANOS DOES NOT SURRENDER!

ESPECIALLY TO AN OPPONENT SO GUTLESS HE COULD NOT DELIVER THE KILLING STROKE.

YOU WILL YIELD, SURFER, OR YOU WILL DIE. I CARE NOT WHICH.

BUT BEAR IN MIND, YOUR DEATH SUBVERTS WARLOCK'S DESIGN FOR SAVING THE UNIVERSE

WHICH WILL IT BE?

DEATH OR DISHONOR?

I...YIELD.

WELCOME BACK.

A MOMENT WHILE I *CONJURE AWAY* THE BONDS THAT HOLD YOU.

I TRUST MATTERS HAVE BEEN *SETTLED*?

THERE *IS* A VICTOR?

THERE IS.

I TRIUMPHED, OF COURSE.

THE *OUTCOME* WAS NEVER IN DOUBT. *MODESTY* PREVENTS ME FROM DISCUSSING THE DETAILS.

THIS IS *TRUE*? THANOS EMERGED VICTORIOUS?

HE DID.

IT IS *FINISHED*, AND BEST *FORGOTTEN*.

WE SHOULD *CONCERN* OURSELVES ONLY WITH CONFRONTING NEBULA.

SURFER, WE *ALL* SAW. YOU *BESTED* HIM, AND YET *YOU* RETURN DEFEATED.

WHY?

YEAH? HOW COME?

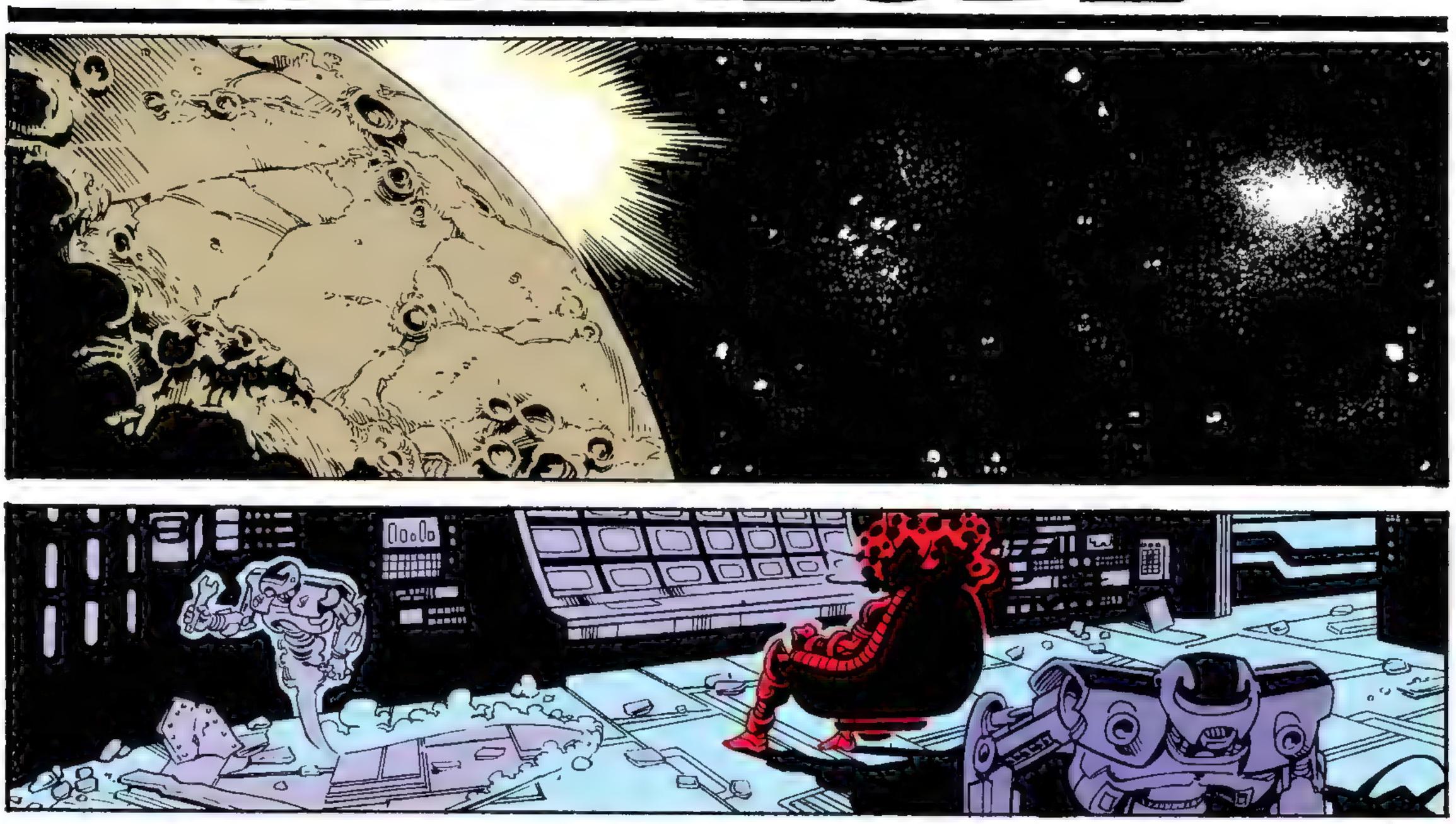
BECAUSE I CAME TO MY *SENSES.*

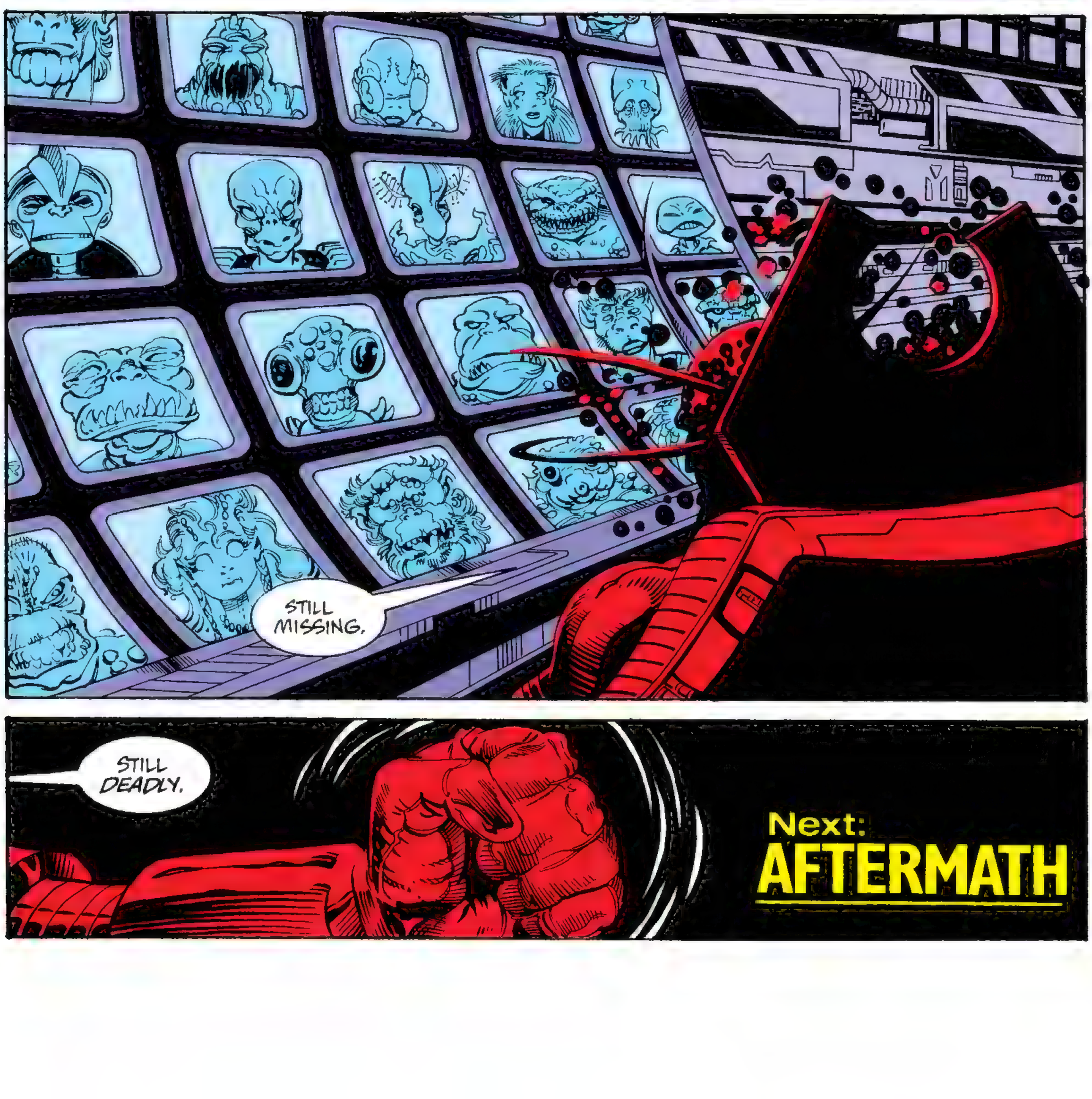
I CAME *DANGEROUSLY* CLOSE TO PUTTING MY NEED FOR *RETRIBUTION* AHEAD OF *PRESERVING* THE UNIVERSE'S LONE HOPE OF *SURVIVAL.*

ALMOST TOO LATE, I REALIZED THANOS MUST, *FOR NOW,* GO *UNPUNISHED* FOR HIS CRIMES.

NO MATTER HOW *FOUL* A MONSTER HE MAY BE.

-INTERLUDE-





Next:
AFTERMATH

In the closing pages of *Sleepwalker #6*, Sleepwalker was horrified to see Rick Sheridan, his human host, vanish as part of Thanos' Great Disappearance.

Trapped in the mind of college student **Rick Sheridan** is a mysterious alien who claims he's a guardian of the **Mindscape,** the dimension that borders on the minds of all intelligent beings. And when Rick **sleeps,** the alien **walks** — into **our** reality, where he can continue his noble mission and use his powers to strike fear in the hearts of Earthen evildoers everywhere!
Stan Lee presents the heroic, horrifying... **SLEEPWALKER!**

THE TIES THAT BIND!

MORNING ON A STREET IN BROOKLYN. *

FOR MANY REASONS THIS IS A MORNING UNLIKE ANY OTHER, YET THE SCENE NOW WITNESSED BY THE NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS IS THE **LEAST** OF THEM...

FROM THE MEMORY OF MY HUMAN HOST, **RICK SHERIDAN**, I LEARNED THAT THIS DAILY RITUAL, KNOWN AS "WALKING THE DOG," IS IMPORTANT TO YOU, **RAMBO**.

LITTLE DID I REALIZE **HOW** IMPORTANT.

ARF ARF!

* THIS STORY TAKES PLACE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CATASTROPHIC EVENTS OF **INFINITY GAUNTLET** #1.-- DOOMSDAY DON

SLEEPWALKER CREATED BY BOB BUDIANSKY.

BOB BUDIANSKY	BRET BLEVINS	MICHAEL BAIR	STARKINGS	MARIE JAVINS	DON DALEY	TOM DeFALCO
WRITER	PENCILER	INKER	LETTERER	COLORIST	EDITOR	EDITOR IN CHIEF

MONSTER!

Eh --?!

YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE! YOU TOOK AWAY MY WIFE! YOU MADE HER DISAPPEAR!

HUMAN, YOU ARE IN ERROR.

LEAVE US ALONE!

YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH DAMAGE!

I DO NOT UNDERSTAND -- NO EVIDENCE EXISTS TO SUPPORT YOUR ACCUSATIONS.

WHAT DID YOU DO WITH MY DAUGHTER? MURDER-ER!

GO AWAY!

YOU DON'T BELONG HERE!

GET OUT OF OUR NEIGH-BOR-HOOD!

MOMENTS LATER, AT THE APARTMENT OF RICK SHERIDAN...

WILL THE PEOPLE OF THIS WORLD FOREVER BE A MYSTERY TO ME?

THEY ACCUSE ME OF CRIMES I DID NOT COMMIT... ACTS OF WHICH I HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE.

YET THEIR ANGUISH SEEMS TO STEM FROM A LOSS SIMILAR TO THE ONE I SUFFERED LAST NIGHT...

"WHEN RICK VANISHED BEFORE MY EYES!" *

BUT BLINDED BY THEIR **PAIN**, THEY CANNOT SEE THAT THE TRAGEDY WE HAVE IN **COMMON**...

...IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE DIFFERENCES THAT SET US **APART**.

CREEK

Eh?!

R-RICK?

* SEE LAST ISSUE.
--DISAPPEARING DON

IT -- IT'S SOME KIND OF **MONSTER**, WILLIE!

I RECOGNIZE YOU FROM RICK'S MEMORIES -- YOU ARE HIS **PARENTS**.

WHAT DID YOU DO TO OUR SON?!

WAP

WAP

FLO!

FLO, WHAT'S HE **DOING** TO YOU?

I AM MERELY RESTRAINING YOUR WIFE TO PREVENT HER FROM HURTING HERSELF, WILLIE SHERIDAN.

LIKE YOURSELVES, I, TOO, AM MYSTIFIED BY RICK'S DIS-APPEARANCE.

AND I, TOO AM CONCERNED.

I WILL NOT REST UNTIL I FIND HIM.

MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE A PRISON IN UPSTATE NEW YORK...

...FOUR CONVICTS-- **WILLIS HAYWORTH, RAY MORGAN, HECTOR FUENTES** AND **ERNIE MILLS**-- LABOR UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYES OF PRISON GUARDS...

THIS STINKS!

YOU'D THINK WIT' HALF THE PEOPLE IN PRISON SUDDENLY **DISAPPEARIN'** LAST NIGHT, THE WARDEN WOULD GIVE US A DAY OFF! *

* BY NOW, EVERY LOYAL MARVEL READER KNOWS THAT HALF THE LIVING CREATURES IN THE UNIVERSE **CEASED TO EXIST** AT THE COMMAND OF **THANOS** IN **INFINITY GAUNTLET #1.**
-- DEATH-DEALING DON

HE FIGGERED IT'D BE BEST IF EVERYONE KEEPS WORKIN' LIKE NORMAL, WILLIS. TAKE OUR MINDS OFFA WHAT HAPPENED.

IT AIN'T **NORMAL**, RAY!

I AIN'T NEVER BEEN CHAINED TO **HIM** BE-FORE!

YOU GOT A **PROBLEM** WIT' DAT, MILLS?!

¡BASTA! **ENOUGH!**

MBE

RUM

Huh?

IT-- IT'S AN **EARTH-QUAKE!**

IT'S MORE'N **THAT!**

WAK

UNGH!

YEAH! IT'S OUR CHANCE...

CHUK

"... TO ESCAPE!"

SOON, A SHORT DISTANCE DOWN THE ROAD...

WE GOTTA GET OUTTA THESE CHAINS!

LET'S USE THESE PICKAXES!

MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING WE CAN USE INSIDE THAT LAB, AMIGO, IT MAY BE FASTER, NO?

INTERTEH ADVANCED ENERGY DELIVERY SYSTEMS

YEAH!

WUNK

BUNCHA HI-TECH JUNK IS ALL I SEE!

WHADDA YOU KNOW, MILLS?!

THAT LOOKS LIKE A POWER DRILL!

I'M NOT SO SURE, HECTOR.

Y'THINK IT'S DANGEROUS?

I'LL TURN IT ON, YA CHICKEN-HEARTED MORON!

ANOTHER 'QUAKE!

RRUMBLE

I FEEL... DIFFERENT...

...STRONGER...

...LIKE I'M FILLED WITH SOME KINDA ENERGY...

...LIKE I COULD RIP SOME SUCKA IN HALF!

LET'S GET OUTTA THESE CHAINS!

WE'LL BE CAUGHT!

HALT! DO NOT MOVE!

NO!

NOT YET-- SOMEHOW, I HEAR A RADIO! A POLICE CAR IS COMING!

HECTOR'S CRAZY! I DON'T HEAR NUTHIN'.

COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP!

KPOW

POW

POW

DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DISAPPEARED OUT OF THE PATH OF THOSE BULLETS, RAY, BUT I AIN'T WAITIN' FOR NO MORE BULLETS TO--

-- HEY! I PULLED THE DOOR *RIGHT* OFFA ITS HINGES!

RRRIP

KPOW

CHEW ON THIS, PIGS!

I GOT *THIS* ONE!

KPOW

WILLYA LOOK AT THAT! HE'S WITHERIN' AWAY LIKE MY GRANDMA...

... WHILE I'M *GETTIN' STRONGER!*

A-AH-H -AH...

WE KICKED THEIR BUTTS!

I DUNNO WHAT WENT DOWN IN THAT LAB, BUT THIS IS GREAT!

WELL, I STILL WANT OUT!

HOLD IT!

KRAK

I GOT...

WRUNK

... A BETTER...

CLIK

...WAY.

Y'SEE, MILLS? YOU'D STILL BE HACKIN' AT THOSE CHAINS!

I'D RATHER BE HACKIN' AT YOU, HAYWORTH!

TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT!

I'LL SUCK ALL THE STRENGTH OUTTA YOU, JUST LIKE I DID TO THAT COP!

YEAH?! I'LL SQUEEZE YOU LIKE THAT AXE TILL THE FAT'S OOZIN' OUTTA YOU LIKE TOOTHPASTE!

WAIT-ASEC-- NOTHIN'S HAPP-ENIN'!

I DON'T FEEL LIKE I DID BEFORE!

I...I HATE TO SAY IT, GUYS--

--BUT IF WE WANNA FEEL LIKE WE DID BEFORE, I THINK WE GOTTA STAY CHAINED TOGETHER!

MEANWHILE, BACK IN BROOKLYN...

BY THE SACRED THOUGHTS OF THE SILENT ONES -- **THIS WORLD CRUMBLES BEFORE MY EYES!**

DEVASTATION AND **DEATH** FALL LIKE A VAST **SHADOW** ACROSS THE LAND!

WHAT COULD BE THE CAUSE OF SUCH CALAMITIES?

BUT BEFORE SLEEP-WALKER CAN EVEN BEGIN TO PONDER AN ANSWER TO HIS QUESTION...

WAAAHH!

I HAVE YOU, LITTLE ONE.

PLEASE--TAKE CARE OF HIM. **MANY** ARE THOSE IN NEED OF MY HELP.

AND SO, OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL HOURS...

...THE **MASTER OF THE MENTAL PLANE** APPLIES HIS AWESOME ALIEN ABILITIES...

...TO SAVE ALL THOSE...

...THAT HE CAN FIND...

...WHO NEED SAVING...

...FROM THE SEEMINGLY ENDLESS CATASTROPHES...

...THAT NOW SHAKE THE PLANET EARTH TO ITS VERY **CORE**...

...UNTIL...

WHO ARE YOU?

I AM DOCTOR STRANGE, MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS. MORE PRECISELY, I AM HIS ASTRAL PROJECTION.

I COME HERE SEEKING YOUR HELP.

HELP? WHY SHOULD I HELP YOU WHEN SO MANY OTHERS ARE IN NEED?

AN OTHER-WORLDLY EVIL GRIPS THIS WORLD... AN EVIL SO GREAT THAT IT IS BEYOND THE ABILITY OF MOST MORTAL MEN TO GRASP. THE NEAR-GOD-LIKE BEING KNOWN AS THANOS HAS USED HIS UNIMAGINABLE POWER TO KILL HALF THE CREATURES IN THE UNIVERSE!

HIS SUBSEQUENT ACTIONS NOW THREATEN TO DESTROY WHAT IS LEFT, INCLUDING EARTH.*

* AS SHOWN IN INFINITY GAUNTLET #s 1-3. -- Don

I AM USING MY MAGICAL POWERS TO GATHER HEROES TOGETHER TO COMBAT THE CONSEQUENCES OF THANOS'S EVIL AND DEFEAT HIM.

ALTHOUGH I DO NOT KNOW YOU, I CAN TELL FROM OBSERVING YOUR DEEDS THAT YOU WOULD BE A WELCOME AND VALUABLE ADDITION TO THIS CAUSE.

I REALIZE NOW THAT I, TOO, AM A VICTIM OF THIS THANOS. MY HUMAN HOST CEASED TO EXIST AS A RESULT OF HIS MURDEROUS ACTS.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

FOLLOW ME -- TO MAN-HATTAN.

THE ENTIRE ISLAND IS THREATENED TO BE BURIED UNDER AN ALIEN ENTITY WHO DIED BECAUSE OF THANOS.*

THE HEROES DEATHLOK, DARKHAWK, MOON KNIGHT, HER, AND OTHERS ALREADY CONFRONT THIS CHALLENGE.

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, STRANGER, BUT THERE'S PLENTY OF THIS GOOP FOR EVERYONE!

GRAB A PIECE -- BEFORE A PIECE GRABS YOU!

* SEE QUASAR #27 FOR THE WHOLE STORY OF HOW THE DEAD ALIEN ENTITY KNOWN AS EON ALMOST ENGULFS MANHATTAN ISLAND. -- Don

HOW CAN SOMETHING **DEAD** BE STILL SO FULL OF **LIFE**?!

IF IT'S DEAD, THEN IT MUST BE RUNNING ON AUTOMATIC PILOT, PAL. IT'S SO BIG THAT I DON'T THINK THIS END OF IT **KNOWS** IT DIED YET!

DEAD OR ALIVE, OUR MISSION TO STOP IT REMAINS UN-CHANGED.

AND WITH SO MANY OTHERS ELSE-WHERE STILL AT RISK, OUR TASK HERE IS ALL THE MORE URGENT!

FINALLY, AFTER MANY HOURS OF UNCEASING **STRUGGLE**...

THE ENTITY RECEDES. THIS PROBLEM IS NO **MORE**!

BUT OTHER CHALLENGES REMAIN! I CANNOT REST UNTIL...

...UNTIL... I CAN GO ON NO FURTHER...

YET, I GROW SO... WEARY...

MEANWHILE, NEARBY...

LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE'S ALREADY **CLEANED OUT** THIS LOUSY TOWN!

I DUNNO, ERNIE -- LOOKS TO ME LIKE NEW YORK'S JUST SUFFERING THE SAME KINDA DEVASTATION WE'VE SEEN THE WHOLE DRIVE DOWN HERE.

ALL THIS CHAOS AND DESTRUCTION... AND NOW WE'VE GOT THESE BIZARRE POWERS...

IF WE DON'T FIND US SOMETHIN' WORTH ***STEALIN'***, I'LL TEAR DOWN WHAT'S LEFT O' THIS CITY WIT' MAH ***BARE HANDS!***

THAT'S JUS' LIKE YOU, HAYWORTH -- LOTSA TALK, NO ACTION!

YOU WANT SOME ACTION, MILLS?! HOWZABOUT--

--THIS?!

KRASH

WHAT -- WHAT WAS *THAT?!*

WE'RE NOT A "THAT," SWEET THING --

--WE'RE THE **CHAIN GANG** --

--AND WE'RE HERE TO *ROCK THIS TOWN!*

DON'T FORGET TO USE THE *NICKNAMES* I CAME UP WITH --!

JUST GIVE US ALL THE *DINERO** IN THIS BANK, AMIGOS, NO ONE GETS HURT!

LET'S HURT 'EM, ANYWAY!

* ***MONEY*** *IN SPANISH.*
--DOUBLE-TALKING DON

OKAY, RAY -- I MEAN *MISSING LINK!*

N-NO!

THEY'RE *SHOOTING* AT ME!

SO WHAT?! YOU CAN JUST *SHIFT THROUGH SPACE* AWAY FROM THEIR BULLETS!

KPOW

POW

POW

NOW *THESE* BOYS, ON THE OTHER HAND --*THEY GOT PROBLEMS!*

AAGHH!

WHY SETTLE FOR JUST *SAPPIN'* THEIR ENERGY, *WEAK LINK* --

UGHH

-- WHEN YOU CAN *SMASH 'EM* WIT' THE STRENGTH OF -- WHAT'D RAY NAME ME? OH, YEAH --

--*MASTER LINK!*

HOWZIT GOIN', **UPLINK**?

NO PROBLEMO. I SENSE THE SIGNALS FROM THIS VAULT'S ELECTRONIC LOCK...

...AND THE DOOR OPENS LIKE A **BOOK!**

AND SO, AFTER THE FOURSOME FINISHES ROBBING THE BANK AND COMMITTING SEVERAL OTHER CRIMES...

WAHOO! NEW YORK SHOULD GET **DEVASTATED** MORE OFTENER!

POLICE

VROOM

I KNOW **I** SHOULD!

OUTTA THE WAY, YA MORONS! THIS TOWN BELONGS TA THE **CHAIN GANG!**

THAT VEHICLE BELOW-- IT SEEMS MORE OF A DANGER TO THE CITIZENRY THAN ANY OTHER CALAMITY AT THE MOMENT.

I PROMISE TO RETURN AND HELP YOU DOWN, HUMANS. ATOP THAT STRUCTURE, **YOU** WILL BE ABLE TO SURVIVE FOR A WHILE--

--I CANNOT SAY THE SAME FOR THE **PEOPLE BELOW!**

STOP THE CAR!

WAUNK

YOUR RECKLESS BEHAVIOR IMPERILS THE LIVES OF MANY WHO HAVE ALREADY SUFFERED TOO MUCH!

THAT SHALL CEASE -- **NOW!**

WHO THE HECK ARE **YOU--?!**

AW, WHO CARES?

WE'RE THE **CHAIN GANG!**

AIN'T **NO ONE** TELLS US WHAT TO DO!

THIS FREAK GONNA TREAT US WIT' **RESPECT...**

WHAM

... OR HE GONNA **DIE!**

YOU **HEAR** THAT, YOU SONUVA --

-- HEY, WHERE'D HE GO?!

MUST END THIS BATTLE QUICKLY... I GROW **WEAKER** AS TIME GOES ON...

... AND I'M NOT SURE **WHY.**

KRASH

I'LL SHOW YA HOW IT'S DONE, HAYWORTH!

HEY! DON'T PUSH ME!

GOT TO! WHILE BUG-FACE IS GRABBIN' FOR YOU AND MISSIN'--

--I CAN GRAB HIM!

HA HA! THAT'S WHY I'M CALLED WEAK LINK, DOGMEAT-- CUZ I GET A HOLD O' SOME-ONE AN' THEY GET WEAKER BY THE SECOND!

Uhhh -- MY STRENGTH... WHAT REMAINED ...NOW LEAVES ME...

AS LONG AS WE'RE ALL LINKS IN THIS CHAIN, AIN'T NOTHIN' CAN STOP US! NOTHIN'!

WE'RE A CHAIN THAT'LL NEVER BREAK!

LET'S KILL THIS CLOWN, ALREADY!

THEIR POWER -- IT SEEMS TO STEM FROM THE FACT THAT THEY ARE CONNECTED TO EACH OTHER... AS I WAS SO RECENTLY CONNECTED TO MY HOME DIMENSION, THE MINDSCAPE...

BUT MY LINK TO MY HOME BROKE...

...WHEN RICK DIED.

WHAT THE--!

FWOOSH

THE MYSTERIOUS FORCE THAT HAS TRIGGERED ALL THESE CALAMITIES UP UNTIL NOW-- IT SEEMS TO BE INTENSIFYING!

THE VERY FABRIC OF THIS REALITY SHREDS BEFORE MY EYES!

DON'T GO 'WAY, FREAK-- AS SOON AS I GET MY FEET ON SOLID GROUND AGAIN, YOU'RE HISTORY!

EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL RIFTS APPEAR... AND THAT ONE--

--THAT ONE OPENS INTO THE MINDSCAPE!

HEY!

JUST AS I SUSPECTED-- WITHOUT RICK AS A MEANS FOR ME TO PERIODICALLY RETURN TO THE MENTAL PLANE AND **RENEW** MYSELF, I GRADUALLY **WEAKENED** WHILE ON EARTH.

PERHAPS I WOULD HAVE EVENTUALLY **DIED.**

YOU A DEAD MAN **NOW**, FREAK! YOU JUST DON'T **KNOW** IT!

WRONG, EVIL ONE!

NOW THAT I AM **HOME**, MY STRENGTH **RETURNS** TO ME IN A FLOOD!

HERE I BURST WITH LIFE!

HE'S **BOXING** US UP--!

--LIKE WE WUZ A BUNCHA **CHRISTMAS PRESENTS!**

WITH THE CHAIN GANG NO LONGER A THREAT, SLEEPWALKER TURNS HIS ATTENTION ELSEWHERE...

THE MINDSCAPE! I HAD ALMOST FORGOTTEN ITS BEAUTY, ITS SPLENDOR!

SO LONG HAVE I WANDERED OTHER PLANES OF REALITY, THAT I HAD NEARLY GIVEN UP HOPE OF EVER GAZING UPON ITS MAGNIFICENCE AGAIN!

BUT NOW I AM HOME... AND HOME IS WHERE I WILL REMAIN...

...AFTER I SAVE THE HUMANS I PROMISED TO HELP.

THE RIFT--IT'S CLOSING!

I--I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO COME BACK!

BUT I AM A SLEEP-WALKER.

AND MY FATE IS TIED TO THOSE I HAVE SWORN TO PROTECT.

THEIR NEED IS MY DESTINATION. THEIR CAUSE IS MY OWN.

I MUST GO.

NO!

THE STRUCTURE BENEATH THE HUMANS -- IT CRUMBLES!

I AM TOO LATE!

BUT, UNBE-KNOWN TO SLEEP-WALKER, OVER HALF A GALAXY AWAY, EVENTS UNFOLD THAT RENDER HIS FAILED HEROICS **IN-CONSE-QUENTIAL.**

FOR ALL THE CATACLYSMIC EVENTS THAT SWEPT THROUGH **THIS** UNIVERSE IN THE RECENT PAST ARE JUST AS EASILY **SWEPT AWAY**, AS IF THEY NEVER HAPPENED...

...WHEN **NEBULA**, GRAND-DAUGHTER OF THE MAD WOULD-BE GOD **THANOS** USES THE POWER OF THE **INFINITY GAUNTLET** TO UNDO ALL HIS EVIL WORKS.*

* FOR THE WHOLE STORY, READ **INFINITY GAUNTLET** #6, ON SALE NOW!-- DON

PHYSICAL DAMAGE IS REPAIRED.

MEMORIES OF WHAT HAPPENED FADE.

LIVES ARE RESTORED.

AND SLEEPWALKER RETURNS TO THE MOMENT RIGHT BEFORE HE WIT-NESSED RICK VANISHING FROM EXISTENCE.

STRANGE. I FEEL AS IF I WITNESSED AN HORRIFIC VISION OF **RUIN** AND **DEATH**--

-- YET I SEE NO IMMEDIATE EVIDENCE OF SUCH TRAGEDY.

HOURS LATER, AS MORNING APPROACHES...

THESE FRAGMENTED **MEMORIES** THAT HAUNT ME CAN HAVE **NO TRUTH.**

EVERYTHING AROUND ME APPEARS NORMAL.

IT ALL MUST HAVE BEEN **DREAM.**

DAILY BUGLE

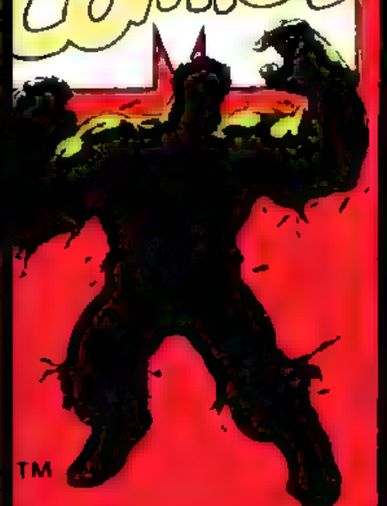
FOUR UPSTATE PRISONERS MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEAR

THE END -- FOR **NOW**...

next **NIGHT of the LIVING DEATHLOK!**

STARLIN
+ DUSKIN

MARVEL® COMICS



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THE INCREDIBLE HULK

∞ INFINITY GAUNTLET CROSSOVER

AN ENTIRE CITY GOES ON A WILDING SPREE!

CAUGHT IN THE HEART OF A GAMMA BOMB EXPLOSION, DR. BRUCE BANNER NOW FINDS HIMSELF TRANSFORMED INTO A POWERFUL, DARK, AND DISTORTED REFLECTION OF HIMSELF.

STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

THE INCREDIBLE HULK

DARK DOMINION

"BABYLON IS FALLEN, IS FALLEN, THAT GREAT CITY."
--Revelations, 14:8

DOC SIMSON

A DAVID / KEOWN / FARMER / ROSEN / OLIVER / CHASE / DEFALCO Production

HALF OF EARTH'S POPULATION HAS VANISHED.

THE REMAINING HALF ISN'T TAKING IT ESPECIALLY WELL.

THE DARK THINGS HAVE RISEN UP FROM THE SOUL OF MAN AND ENVELOPED THE CITY...

OR MAYBE THE CITY HAS REACHED DOWN FROM ITS TOWERS, FILTHY FROM SCRAPING THE NIGHT SKY...

...SCOOPED UP THE POPULACE IN ITS EMBRACE AND FONDLED IT, SQUEEZING OUT THE EVIL.

IT'S ALL THE SAME TO ME.

ALL THE SAME.

AND IT ALL TASTES SO SPLENDID.

EXCELLENT BLOOD. BUT... IT NEEDS...

...SALT. LIKE YOU FIND IN A WOMAN'S TEARS.

I THINK WE'D BETTER BE GETTING ON *BACK*, CINDY. I HEAR ALL SORTS OF NOISES, *SHOUTING*...

AW, MAC, YOU'RE NOT *NERVOUS!* THAT'S WHY I JOG WITH THE TWO OF YOU... TO HAVE BIG, STRONG *MEN* TO PRO--

WHAT'S... WHAT'S *THAT?*

LOOKS LIKE...LIKE A TIDAL WAVE...

...OF *PEOPLE!* JUST...JUST A *FLOOD* OF THEM!

THEY SAY THE USUAL THINGS.

"WAIT!" "STOP!" "DON'T!"

THE BEST IS WHEN THE ONE CALLED MAC SAYS "TAKE THE WOMAN! JUST LET US GO!" WE LAUGHED AT THAT.

OH, YES WE DID.

WE WE TOOK THE WOMAN, AND TOOK MAC, TOO.

WE HAD A LOT TO OFFER HIM, AND A LOT TO GIVE HER.

GODS, IS THIS FUN CITY, OR WHAT?

MEANTIME, IN THE THEATER DISTRICT...

TERRIFIC.

I'M BACK WHERE I STARTED.

THE FATE OF THE UNI-VERSE BEING× DECIDED...

...AND I'M HIP-DEEP IN GARBAGE IN MAN-HATTAN.

×CONFUSED? DON'T BE./ JUST KEEP READING ***INFINITY GAUNTLET*** AND ALL WILL BE EXPLAINED. --BOBBIE

BETTY, IS *BETTY* OKAY?

I'D BETTER *CALL* HER IN RENO AND FIND OUT. IF SHE'S AMONG THE ONE-HALF OF THE MISSING PEOPLE... I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* I'D DO.

CRACK UP, PROBABLY.

FOR ALL THE TROUBLES WE'RE HAVING, SHE'S *STILL* MY WIFE. MINE. *MINE.*

THAT *MEANS* SOMETHING.

YOU GONNA *DIE*, MAN!!

PLEASE.

I'M SOLILO-QUIZING.

KRRAAASH

DRIVER LOOKS IN BAD SHAPE. HE'S *BLEEDING*...

...BUT MY *HEART* ISN'T. TRY TO RUN *ME* OVER, YOU *DESERVE* WHAT YOU GET... AND THE BLOOD-STAINED TIRES INDICATE I *WASN'T* HIS FIRST TARGET. JUST HIS *LAST.*

HMM. LIMOS LIKE THAT USUALLY HAVE A *PHONE.*

BINGO.

YOU DON'T MIND, DO YOU?

THOUGHT NOT.

MARLO'S NUMBER'S RINGING *BUSY.*

CHATTERING AWAY. *TYPICAL* WOMAN.

NOW THERE'S A TYPICAL WOMAN FOR YOU.

THE CITY GOING BERSERK, DANGER ALL AROUND, AND SHE'S OUT JOGGING. JUST LIKE THE OTHERS.

SHE'S GOING TO TASTE DELICIOUS.

CATCH THE WAVE, YOU LITTLE TRAMP. IN YOUR TIGHT CLOTHES COVERING YOUR MUSCULAR LITTLE BODY.

YOU'RE ASKING FOR--

--IT?

NOT THIS TIME.

NOT TO ME. NOT TO ANYONE ELSE.

SOME SORT OF BOLTS... AN ENERGY PLASMA... RIPPING INTO US. SEVERING THE POWER OF THE GESTALT.

PAIN AND DEATH, ALL AROUND.

RUN! RUN, YOU IDIOTS!

MY BRETHREN ARE IN *ALL* THE MAJOR CITIES, FIGHTING AGAINST INHUMANITY SUCH AS YOURS. *I* PICKED NEW YORK...

BECAUSE MY *MOTHER* WAS IN NEW YORK, AND *MURDERED* BY VERMIN LIKE YOU. LETHAL FORCE IS TO BE USED AT OUR *DISCRETION*... AND MY PARTNER AND I ARE GOING TO BE *INDISCREET.*

PARTNER? WHAT--?

ADLANNA SEZ YOO DIE.

SO YOO *DOO.*

*WE'RE GETTING SLAUGHTERED. THE FEAR IS BEING DIRECTED THE **WRONG** WAY. THIS IS **POINTLESS.***

*I WITHDRAW, TO FIND **NEW** LOVERS...*

*AND LEAVE MY DISCARD TO THEIR **OWN** DEVICES.*

NO! DON'T *HURT* ME! KILL THE *OTHERS!*

I WAS JUST ALONG FOR THE RI--

YES. THIS SHOULD DO NICELY.

THE ANGER, THE HYSTERIA, IT'S ALL IN PLACE. THEY'VE ALREADY TORN UP A FEW CITY BLOCKS. WHAT THEY NEED NOW IS MORE *DIRECTION.*

PLEASE! *ALL* OF YOU! SHOW SOME *HUMANITY!*

GO TO YOUR *HOMES!* *ABANDON* THIS MADNESS! GOD IS WATCHING OVER *ALL*, AND HIS JUDGMENT WILL BE--

MOOT! GOD HAS *ABANDONED* YOU!

THERE ARE *NEW* GODS ABROAD ON THE LAND.

LET'S SHOW THIS OUTDATED PUDDING WHAT WE THINK OF THE *OLD* GOD!

I'VE *HEARD* ABOUT WHAT CAN HAPPEN TO A CITY DURING TIMES OF STRESS. THE LOOTING, THE CRAZED BEHAVIOR...

BUT I'VE NEVER WITNESSED *ANYTHING* LIKE THIS BEF--

SOMETHING'S *BURNING* DOWN THERE, AND THE STENCH OF...

OH, MY LORD.

NO!

YES!

DON'T!

STOP!

GO!

DO!

YOU'LL HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN *THAT*, FATHER. *I'VE* GOT ALL NIGHT.

AND YOU ... *YOU'LL* JUST HAVE HOT CROSS BUNS.

OH, EXCELLENT! NOW YOU'RE *PRAYING*. AND *HOW*, FATHER, DO YOU THINK GOD WILL HELP YOU NOW? AN AVENGING *ANGEL*, PERHAPS?

AARRRHHHH!!

BUK KOW

YOU OKAY?

FOR... FOR A MOMENT, MY FAITH WAS *SORELY* SHAKEN.

YEAH, WELL AT LEAST YOU WEREN'T SHAKEN AND BAKED.

HELLO, GREEN KNIGHT.

I AM ALL-POWERFUL.

I AM GESTALT.

I AM THE CITY.

I AM BRUCE BANNER.

I AM THE HULK.

I'M NOT DOING *ANYTHING* TO THEM, HULK.

AND I AM GOING TO TAKE YOU *APART*...

FOR *DOING* THIS TO THESE PEOPLE.

I AM MOMENTARILY *DISTRACTED* BY THE WAVES OF EBONY PLEASURE THAT CARESS ME.

THE HULK TAKES THAT MOMENT TO TRY AND DISLOCATE MY JAW.

I'M DOING IT... *FOR* THEM.

A *SUBTLE* DIFFERENCE THAT I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO UNDERSTAND.

WE DON'T FEEL IT.

YOU LITTLE *COCKROACH*. YOU THINK *I'M* THE *PROBLEM*?

WRONG! I'M THE SOLUTION!

I'M THROUGHOUT THE CITY! I'M THROUGHOUT *ALL* THE CITIES...

IN *ALL* PLACES WHERE GREED IS A *DOOR*, AND VIOLENCE THE *KEY*.

IN *ALL* PLACES WHERE HUMANS ARE COMPRESSED INTO HEARTLESS, THOUGHTLESS *CYPHERS*, TRADING THEIR *LIVES* FOR MERE *EXISTENCE*.

YOU, HULK, HAVE *NO* IDEA WHAT YOU'RE DEALING WITH.

IS THAT A *FACT*?

I'VE SEEN HUMANITY FROM *BOTH* SIDES AND, MISTER, YOU *AREN'T* IN THE EQUATION.

IF *ANYONE* DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE'S DEALING WITH...

IT'S *YOU.*

I THINK I *DO.*

I'M IN THE SHADOWS AND THE BUILDINGS AND THE PEOPLE.

I'M IN THEIR *DARKEST* THOUGHTS AND *DEEPEST* WANTS. I GIVE TO *THEM,* THEY GIVE TO *ME.* THIS IS THE NIGHT OF DEATH'S DOMINION. THE CITY'S *LAST GASP.*

THIS NIGHT, *ALL* WILL EITHER BE *PREDATOR* OR *PREY.*

WHICH WILL *YOU* BE, HULK?

WHICH?

HEY!

GET *OFF* ME! WHAT IS *WITH* YOU PEOPLE?!

NOT *LOST*! *GIVEN* THEM TO *ME*!

HAVE YOU LOST YOUR *MINDS*?!

SURRENDERED THEMSELVES TO DONATE THEIR PRECIOUS, TROUBLESOME INDIVIDUALITY TO THE EXQUISITE *PROTECTION* OF THE MASS! OF THE *GESTALT*!

LET THEM *GO*!

I *CAN'T*! THEY WOULDN'T HAVE IT ANY *OTHER* WAY!

THEY KNOW THIS IS THEIR *LAST* NIGHT. THE SUN WILL *NEVER* RISE AGAIN. WHICH MEANS THEY'RE *FREE*.

FREE TO SATISFY THEIR EVERY *NASTY* LITTLE WHIM, THEIR *EVERY* DARKSOME WISH.

MORALITY IS THE DAY-TO-DAY *RULE* BOOK, BUT WHEN THE GAME IS TO BE PLAYED NO *LONGER*...

IT'S TIME TO TOSS THE RULE BOOK *AWAY*.

RULE THIS!

YES! YES! OH, GODS...

OH, THIS IS **TRANSCENDENT!** THIS IS **EVERY**THING I COULD HAVE HOPED FOR!

THE BLOOD! IT'S EVERYWHERE! IT'S **MINE!** IT'S **EXQUISITE!** THE TASTE, AND...

I THINK I'M IN **LOVE.** FINALLY, I'VE FOUND ONE TO BE WITH ME FOR...

OH NO.

NO... NOT THE DAY-LIGHT.

IT CAN'T MEAN...

BUT I WAS SO **SURE** THAT IT WAS THE FINAL NIGHT.

THAT THE GREAT **SWORD** WAS TO DESCEND. THAT...

IT CAN'T BE OVER.

IT FELT SO GOOD.

--SDAY...

RICK!

WHOA.

I WAS *DEAD.*

I KNOW. WHAT DID YOU *SEE?*

I SAW...

ELVIS.

AND HE LOOKED *GREAT,* MAN.

AND THERE WERE ALL THESE ROCKERS WHO DIED IN *PLANE* CRASHES. RICHIE AND BUDDY AND RICKY AND REBA'S GUYS... THEY WERE ALL STANDING AROUND THIS BIG AIRPORT LUGGAGE CAROUSEL, AND THEIR SUITCASES JUST WEREN'T SHOWING *UP*, MAN. AND...

LATER, RICK.

LOOKS LIKE EVERYTHING'S BACK TO NORMAL...

EXCEPT FOR ONE INDIVIDUAL WHO *WAS* HERE...

AND NOW *HE'S* GONE.

WHAT ELSE *WOULD* IT BE?

WHAT'S WITH THE *STICK*, BRUCE?

NOTHING. IT'S JUST A STICK.

AAAAAHHH

MY BABY BOY! MY *BABY BOY!*

HE WAS A *GOOD* BOY! WHO *DID* THIS TO HIM?!

LIKE SOMEONE TORE HIS *INSIDE* OUT WITH A BLOWTORCH!!

HE WAS A *GOOD* BOY! A *GOOD* BOY!

WHY DID THIS HAPPEN?!

WHY?!?

LOOK AT THEM ALL... WALKING AROUND WITH THEIR HEADS HUNG. ASHAMED TO EVEN LOOK AT EACH OTHER.

DISGUSTING.

YEAH, LOOK, BRUCE, IF I COULD GET ONE QUESTION ANSWERED, SINCE I'M KIND OF FUZZY ON ALL OF THIS. NAMELY...

DID WE WIN?

WELL, WHEN I WAS HURLED BACK THERE, THANOS WAS STILL...

OH, THIS BUSINESS IN THE CITY, YOU MEAN, WITH ALL THE WRECKAGE. WELL...

I'M NOT SURE.

IF WHAT I FACED WAS SOME SORT OF MUTANT THAT SIPHONED OFF DARK FEELINGS AND VIOLENCE...AND NOW HE'S GONE...THEN YES, WE WON.

ON THE OTHER HAND, IF WHAT I FACED WAS DRAWN FROM THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF HUMANS, WAITING TO BE UNLEASHED AGAIN... THEN NO.

AT BEST...

...WE CALL THIS A DRAW.

NEXT: ACHILLES vs. RICK! ISRAEL AND SABRA vs. THE HULK! A GREAT T-SHIRT! A MUSICAL INTERLUDE! ALL IN...

LITTLE HITLER!

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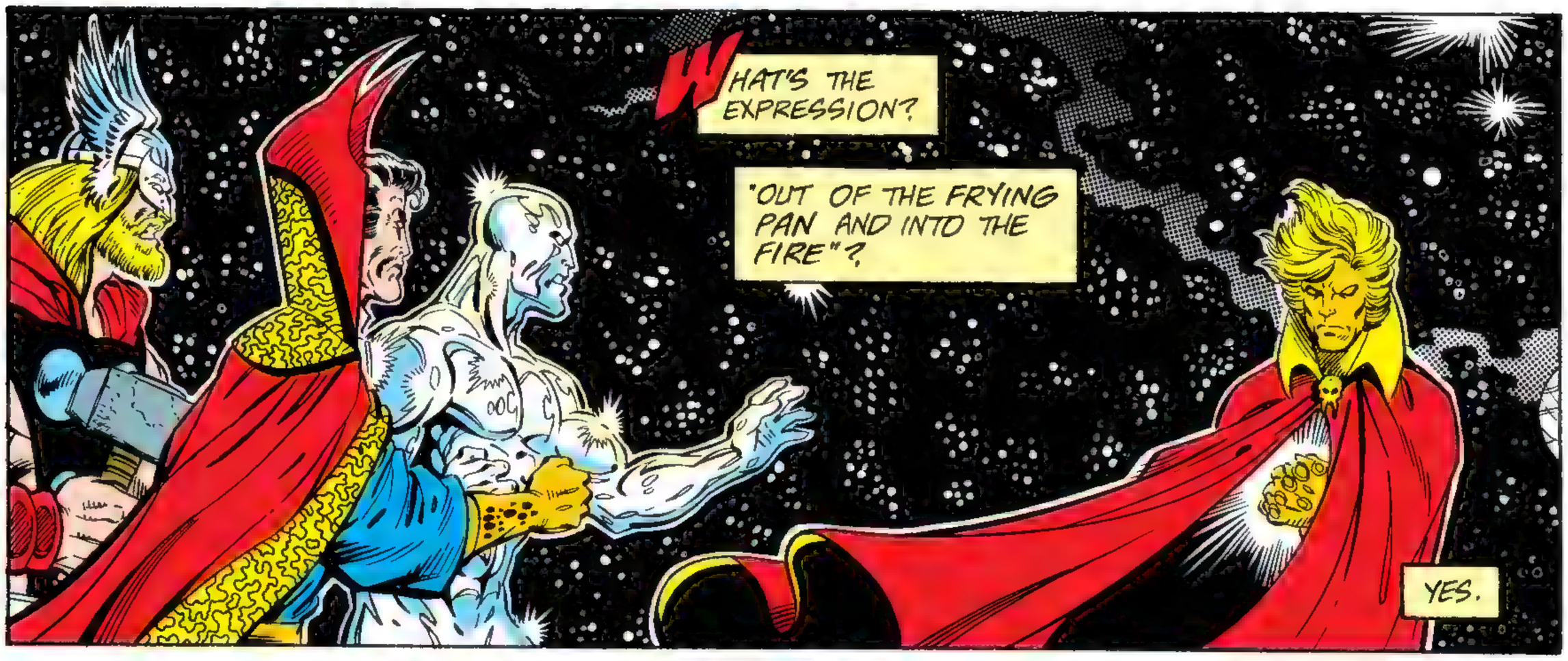
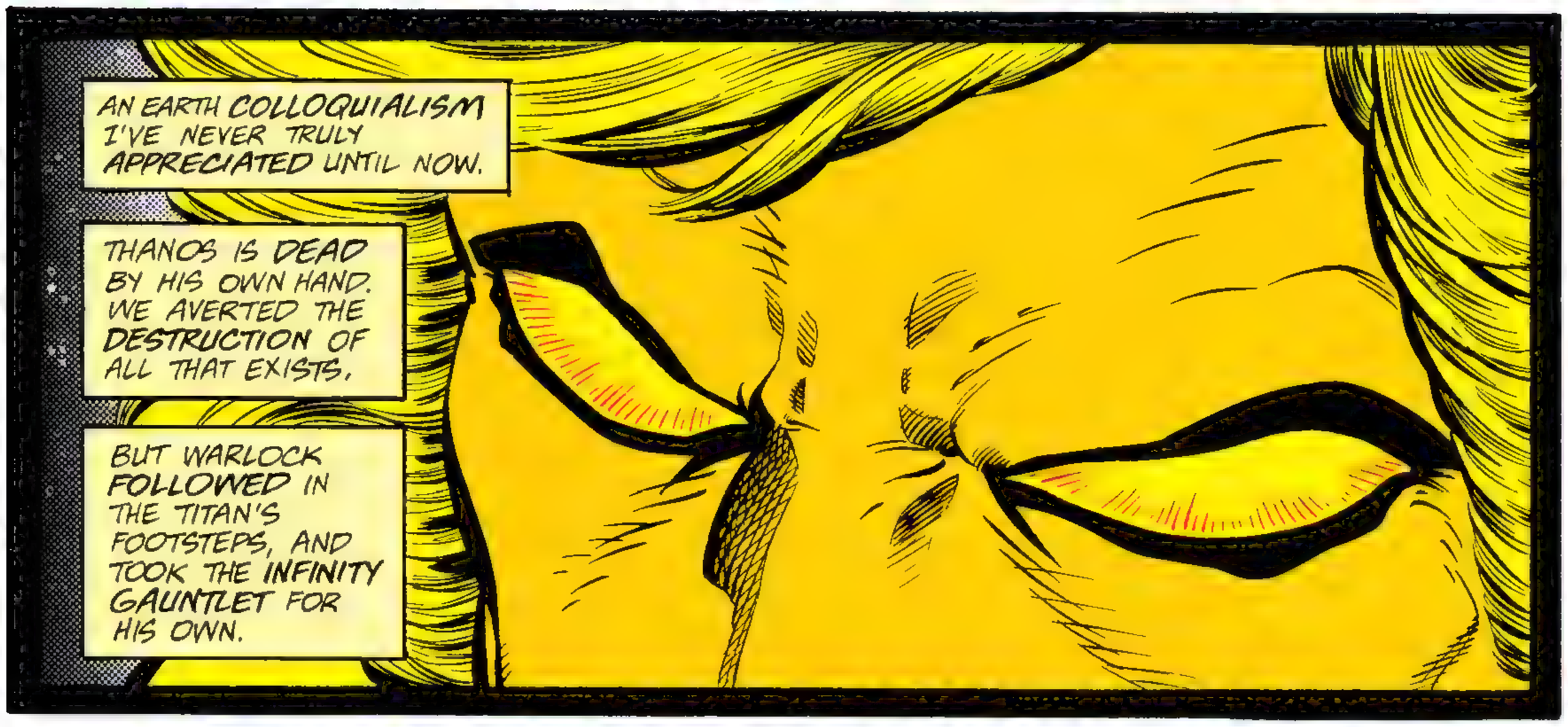
THE SILVER SURFER

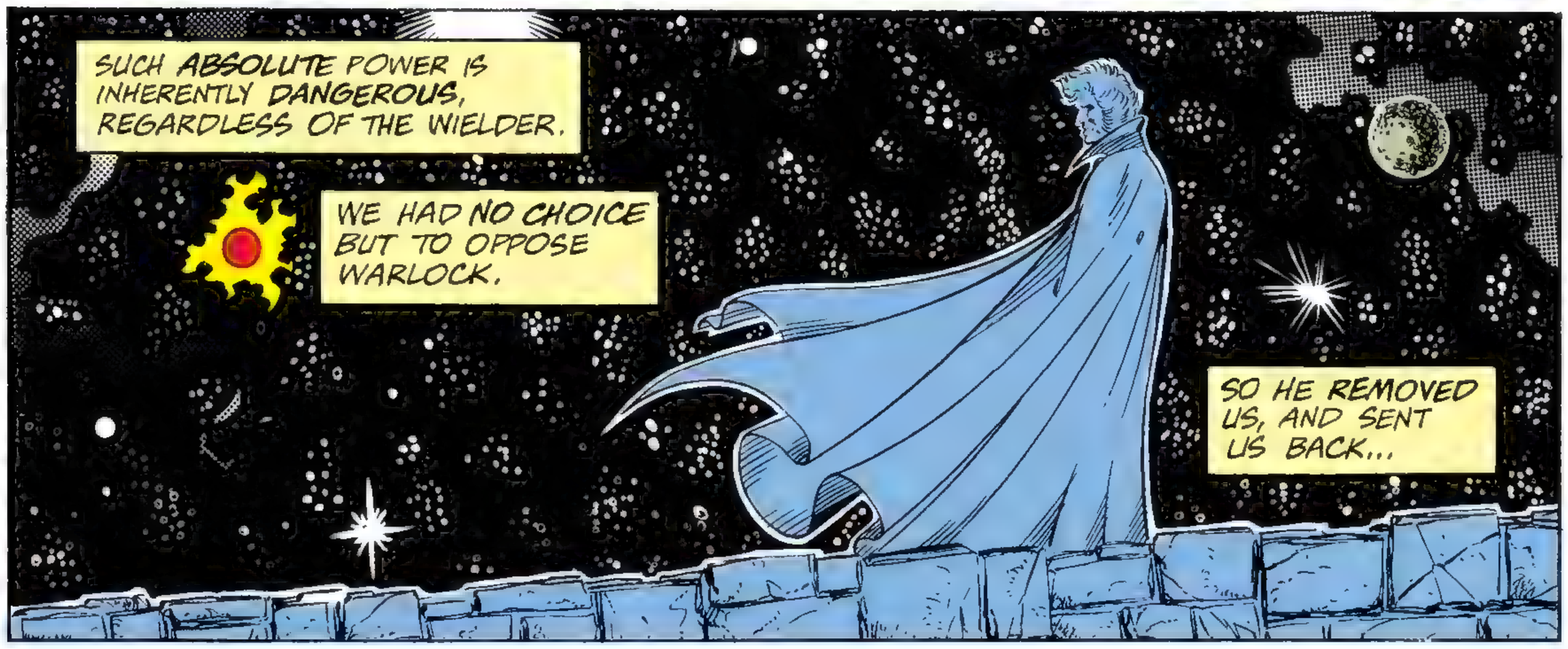
THE RETURN OF MIDNIGHT SUN!™

FEATURING SOME SURPRISE GUEST-STARS!

TO SAVE HIS PLANET, **NORRIN RADD** SURRENDERED HIS FREEDOM TO BECOME HERALD TO THE WORLD-DEVOURING **GALACTUS.** COATED WITH GALACTIC GLAZE, GIVEN A SURFBOARD OBEYING HIS MENTAL COMMANDS, AND GRANTED THE POWER COSMIC, HE NOW SOARS THE UNIVERSE . A SHINING SENTINEL OF THE SPACEWAYS! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . . **THE SILVER SURFER!**







...HERE.

WHAT'S GOING ON? WHERE'D THAT WARLOCK GO?

I DON'T BELIEVE *HE'S* GONE ANYWHERE. WE, HOWEVER, SEEM TO HAVE BEEN *RELOCATED.*

FINAL & PRELUDE

RON MARZ - RON LIM - JIM SANDERS III
WRITER PENCILER INKER

KEN BRUZENAK - TOM VINCENT - CRAIG ANDERSON - TOM DeFALCO
LETTERER COLORIST EDITOR CHIEF

SHALL WE ATTEMPT TO *TRACK DOWN* WARLOCK?

TO WHAT *PURPOSE?*

WE COULD NOT *FIND HIM* UNLESS HE *WISHED* TO BE FOUND. AND EVEN IF WE *COULD*, OUR LATEST ENCOUNTER PROVES WE HAVE NO HOPE OF *CHALLENGING* HIM. HE IS--

MASTER! THE ROOM!

WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING?

I HAVE HAD MOST *UNPLEASANT* DREAMS.

SOMETHING IS AMISS. I FEEL IT!

SHORTLY, WONG. YOU HAVE MY *WORD.*

FOR THE MOMENT, WE REQUIRE *PRIVACY.* I WILL SPEAK WITH YOU *SOON.*

AS I EXPECTED, HE HAS LITTLE *MEMORY* OF WHAT HAS PASSED. FORGIVE THE *INTERRUPTION.*

NOW, AS I SAID, IN *MY* ESTIMATION, WARLOCK IS *BEYOND* OUR INFLUENCE. WE CAN ONLY *HOPE* HE USES HIS INFINITE POWER *WISELY.*

THERE IS *NOTHING MORE* WE CAN DO.

WELL. I GUESS *I'M* NO LONGER NEEDED.

SO, IF YOU DON'T MIND, THERE'S A *HOT BATH* WITH MY NAME ON IT.

SO LONG... IT'S BEEN NICE... *SEEING* YOU... AGAIN.

SAFE JOURNEY, THUNDER GOD.

BUT HE FOUGHT *GALLANTLY.*

HE SERVED OUR CAUSE *WELL*, AS DID YOU, SURFER. YOU'VE EARNED A *RESPITE* FROM YOUR TRAVELS.

DID YOU NOTICE SOMETHING... *AWKWARD* ABOUT HIM?

INDEED. I FIND IT UNLIKELY *HE* IS THE THOR WITH WHOM WE ARE FAMILIAR.

I COULD NOT HAZARD A GUESS AS TO HIS *TRUE IDENTITY.*

YOU'RE WELCOME TO *REMAIN HERE* AS LONG AS YOU LIKE. MY HOUSE IS...QUITE A BIT *LARGER* THAN YOU MIGHT SUSPECT.

I APPRECIATE YOUR *HOSPITALITY*, STEPHEN, BUT *ONE TASK* REMAINS BEFORE I'LL ALLOW MYSELF TO REST.

THE *OBSCENE MONUMENT* THANOS ERECTED TO HIMSELF STILL STANDS. IT MUST BE *ERASED* FROM EXISTENCE.

THEN I WILL CONSIDER THIS AFFAIR COMPLETED.

IF YOU *MUST* GO, I UNDERSTAND. KNOW THAT MY HOME IS ALWAYS *OPEN* TO YOU, NORRIN RADD.

YOU *HONOR* ME. I HOPE I'LL BE ABLE TO *RETURN* IN THE NEAR FUTURE, IN *LESS DRAMATIC* CIRCUMSTANCES.

WONG! FETCH A BROOM, WOULD YOU?

ONCE I'VE RAZED THANOS'S PLATFORM, WHAT THEN?

STRANGE IS CORRECT. ATTEMPTING TO AGAIN CONFRONT WARLOCK WOULD BE FUTILE.

SO VERY MUCH HAS OCCURRED IN SO SHORT A TIME.

I'VE NOT ONLY SURVIVED, BUT ALSO LOOKED INTO MY SOUL FOR THE FIRST TIME.

YOU MIGHT EVEN BE ABLE TO USE THE DOOR NEXT TIME.

PERHAPS, STEPHEN. BUT DON'T RELY ON IT.

THAT MAN ON THE BOARD.

I KNOW THAT ONE.

*SILVER SURFER #29. --CRAIG

WE MET BEFORE, WHEN MY MASTERS SET ME AFTER HIM LIKE A HOUND TO THE HUNT.*

PERHAPS HE KNOWS SOMETHING OF ME, SOME SCRAP OF INFORMATION THAT MIGHT HELP RESTORE MY IDENTITY.

SOMETHING THAT MIGHT TELL ME WHO I AM.

BUT FOR THAT, I MUST COMMUNICATE WITH HIM.

I FEEL AT PEACE WITH MYSELF FOR THE FIRST TIME. I HAVE LEARNED TO FORGIVE.

MY PAST NO LONGER HAUNTS ME. MY GHOSTS ARE QUIET.

I FEEL AS THOUGH THERE ARE NO MORE OBSTACLES IN MY PATH.

WHAAAAT!!?

OF ALL MY OPPONENTS, I DID NOT EXPECT TO MEET YOU AGAIN SO SOON.

DO THE KREE WISH TO RENEW OUR FEUD?

WELL, YOU ARE STILL THE MOST TACITURN OF FOES.

AND ALSO ONE OF THE MOST BOTHERSOME.

I HAVE NO TIME FOR THIS.

STAND ASIDE.

YOU RISK MY IRE, SIR.

AFTER WHAT I HAVE PERSEVERED, IT IS NOT SOMETHING YOU WISH TO HAVE.

BUT IF YOU PERSIST, I CAN ACCOMMODATE YOU.

MY VOICE WAS STOLEN ALONG WITH MY PAST. I CAN'T ALLOW HIM TO LEAVE, BUT AM UNABLE TO TELL HIM WHY.

:unnnngh:

YOU BRING THIS UPON YOURSELF. YOU KNOW WHAT I AM CAPABLE OF.

HIS ABILITIES ARE VASTLY SUPERIOR TO MINE, BUT I MUST NOT FALTER.

TROUBLE ME NO MORE, WHOEVER YOU ARE.

I WOULD RATHER HE DESTROYED ME THAN CONTINUE IN MY IGNORANCE.

I CAN'T ALLOW HIM TO ESCAPE.

YOU ARE MAD!

WHY DO YOU INSIST ON ENGAGING ME?

I HAVE NO CHOICE. I MUST MAKE YOU UNDERSTAND.

RELEASE ME OR BEAR THE CONSEQUENCES. MY *PATIENCE* IS AT AN END.

YOUR BOARD GIVES YOU AN *ADVANTAGE* I CAN'T HOPE TO *MATCH*, SURFER. IT *MUST* BE *REMOVED* FROM THE GAME.

SKEEEE-RAK!

YOU HAVE GAINED MY *UNDIVIDED* ATTENTION.

THAT WAS MY GOAL ALL ALONG. I JUST PRAY IT DOESN'T KILL ME.

MRRUMMPH!

THE BEST I COULD HOPE FOR IS TO KEEP HIM OFF-BALANCE UNTIL I FIND A WAY TO MAKE HIM UNDERSTAND.

SOMEHON YOU MANAGE TO MAKE A *CONTEST* OUT OF OUR ENCOUNTERS.

THIS ONE HAS CONTINUED LONG ENOUGH.

NO! I WAS A FOOL TO GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO GATHER HIMSELF!

I DIDN'T *EXPECT* HIM TO BE SO EASILY *DEFEATED.*

I HOPE I HAVEN'T *INJURED* HIM TOO BADLY.

WHAT IS ALL THIS?

MY OPPONENT. HE APPEARS... DEAD.

IT IS WHAT I WOULD HAVE YOU BELIEVE.

UNITED STATES

SUCH UNDERHANDEDNESS IS AN AFFRONT TO MY HONOR, BUT THE DECEPTION IS NECESSARY.

HE DOESN'T STIR AT ALL.

COME TAKE A CLOSER LOOK, SURFER. SATISFY YOUR CURIOSITY.

I... I WOULD HAVE NEVER BELIEVED HIM TO BE SO... FRAGILE.

I'VE GOT TO SAVE HIM, TEND TO HIS INJURIES.

GET BACK HERE.

I SEE YOU'RE AS SLY AS YOU ARE SILENT.

LOOK AFTER YOURSELF, MY OVER-CONFIDENT FRIEND.

I MUST PRESS THIS ADVANTAGE. HE'S STILL NOT TREATING ME AS A SERIOUS THREAT. I CAN EXPLOIT THAT.

UNITED STATES

MY *PATIENCE* WITH YOU IS AT AN END.

I'VE GIVEN YOU *EVERY OPPORTUNITY* TO LEAVE UNHARMED.

I THINK... I MIGHT... HAVE GONE TOO FAR.

THIS WILL BE *OVER.*

NOW.

UNITED STATES

NO TIME TO...

PERHAPS *THAT* WILL PUT AN END TO YOUR *DECEITFUL* WAYS.

...UNNNGG... CAUGHT ME... FLAT-FOOTED...

...CAN'T... GET UP...

LIE STILL. WE MAY BE ENEMIES, BUT I HAVE NO WISH TO SEE YOU PERMANENTLY DISABLED.

I CAN HEAL YOU, BUT THIS MASK MUST BE REMOVED BEFORE I CAN ASSESS YOUR CONDITION.

MY MASK! HE CAN SEE ME AS I TRULY AM!

HE'S HORRIFIED... HE THINKS ME TO BE SOME SORT OF MONSTER!

URKCCK!

HE SEES, HE KNOWS THE DISFIGUREMENT I SUFFERED AT THE HANDS OF KREE SCIENCE.

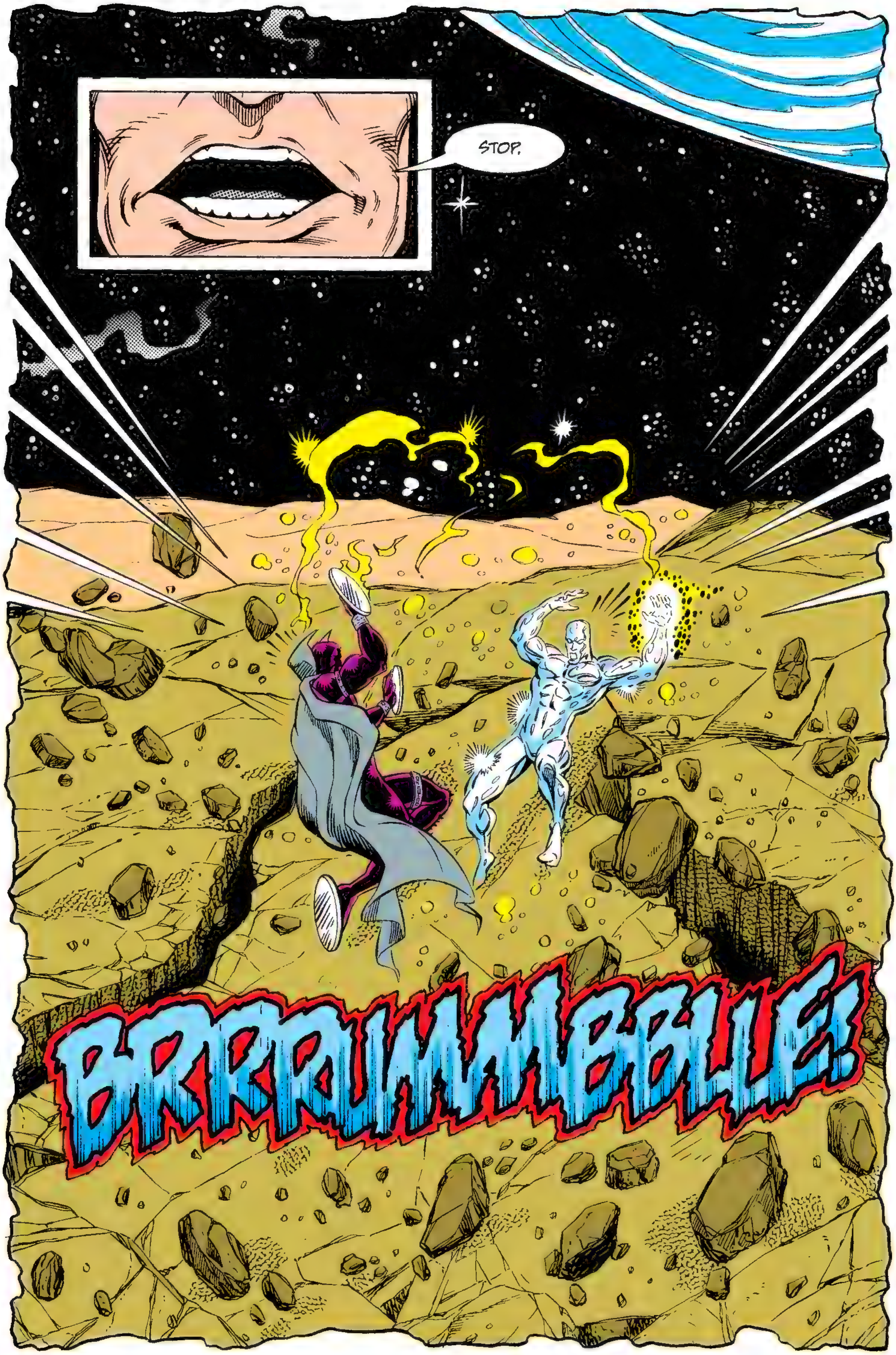
CEASE THIS, YOU MADMAN!

OUR STRUGGLE IS HOPELESS!

I DON'T WANT TO BE SEEN LIKE THIS!

DON'T LOOK AT ME!

YOU'LL ONLY BRING MORE INJURY UPON YOURSELF!


STOP.
BRAINWAVES

THIS... SPHERE IS... A *DEAD WORLD.*

THAT... *TREMOR...* COULD NOT HAVE... OCCURRED NATURALLY.

INDEED, IT DID NOT.

IT WAS BUT A *WORD TO THE WISE* FROM MY LIEGE, *BLACK BOLT,* LORD OF THE *INHUMANS.*

I AM *KARNAK,* AND SPEAK ON BEHALF OF MY GOOD KING AND COUSIN. THESE OTHERS ARE GORGON AND LOCKJAW.

AND *YOU* ARE TRESPASSERS.

THAT ONE IS *UNFAMILIAR,* BUT YOU ARE KNOWN TO US, SURFER. HOWEVER, THAT DOES NOT TEMPER OUR *DISPLEASURE* WITH YOUR BEHAVIOR.

THE MOON IS OUR *HOME,* AND WE HAVE LATELY BEEN *DISTURBED* FAR TOO OFTEN. WE WISH ONLY TO HAVE OUR *PRIVACY* RESPECTED, ESPECIALLY BY APPARENT *RUFFIANS* SUCH AS YOURSELVES.

MY HUMBLEST *APOLOGIES* TO YOU AND YOUR LORD, KARNAK. I MEANT NO *DISRESPECT.*

IT WAS NOT MY INTENTION TO *INTRUDE.* I WISHED ONLY TO RETURN TO SPACE, BUT THIS *SHADOWY FIGURE* ATTACKED ME.

I KNOW *NOTHING* OF HIM, SAVE THAT WE *BATTLED* PREVIOUSLY WHEN HE WAS AN *AGENT* OF THE KREE EMPIRE.

THAT, AND THAT HE IS SEEMINGLY *MUTE.*

I CAN TELL YOU *NO MORE.*

HE IS *NOT* MY CONCERN, SO I WILL TAKE MY LEAVE AND *INFRINGE* UPON YOUR HOSPITALITY NO LONGER.

AS YOU WISH, SURFER.

BUT WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE US *DO* WITH THIS BATTLE SCARRED *CASUALTY?*

I...UM, I DON'T KNOW.

I COULD NOT *PRESUME* TO GUESS HIS ULTIMATE GOAL.

YOUR *INDULGENCE,* FOR A MOMENT, PLEASE.

THE *CURIOSITY* OF MY LIEGE HAS BEEN PIQUED. BLACK BOLT HAS DECREED THAT THE MUTE *REMAIN* IN ATTILAN IF HE SO DESIRES.

HIS *WOUNDS* WILL BE HEALED, AND WE WILL FIND SOME METHOD TO *COMMUNICATE* WITH HIM.

I RESPECT YOU AS A FORMIDABLE OPPONENT, AND TRULY WISH YOU NO HARM.

YOU WILL STAY WITH THE INHUMANS?

I BID YOU FAREWELL, THEN. POSSIBLY WE SHALL MEET AGAIN, AS ALLIES RATHER THAN OPPONENTS.

GOODBYE TO YOU, SURFER. I NEVER MEANT TO COME INTO CONFLICT WITH YOU.

I REALIZE NOW YOU KNOW NOTHING OF WHO I WAS. WHO I AM.

PERHAPS, AMONG THESE INHUMANS, I MIGHT DISCOVER MY HUMANITY.

UNTIL WE CROSS PATHS AGAIN, INHUMANS.

HUMPH.

DON'T EXPECT AN INVITATION.

WHAT APPARITION IS THIS?

NEED... YOU...

COLLECTOR, I'D HOPED OUR PREVIOUS MEETING* WOULD BE OUR LAST.

WHY DO YOU PESTER ME NOW?

I NEED YOU, SURFER.

*SS #19. --COLLECTIVE CRAIG

THOUGH I AM LOATH TO ADMIT IT, I HAVE FALLEN ON HARD TIMES OF LATE.

MUCH OF MY COLLECTION HAS BEEN DESTROYED OR SCATTERED. I NEED YOU TO HELP ME RETRIEVE AN ITEM OF... SINGULAR IMPORTANCE.

YOUR SENSES MUST HAVE BEEN SCATTERED ALSO, ELDER.

YOU'RE SORELY MISTAKEN IF YOU EXPECT ME TO AID IN REBUILDING YOUR REPREHENSIBLE COLLECTION.

I DIDN'T EXPECT ANY GOOD WILL ON YOUR PART, SURFER, SO I APPEAL TO YOUR SELFLESS NATURE.

UNLESS I RECLAIM MY POSSESSION, MILLIONS WILL DIE, HORRIBLY.

I'M COMING.

IN 30 ANXIOUS DAYS: DEAL with the DEVIL!

MARVEL COMICS

36
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DR. STRANGE

INFINITY GAUNTLET EPILOGUE

SORCERER SUPREME...

AT WAR WITH WARLOCK!

HE WAS ONCE A SURGEON—AN ARROGANT MAN-OF-THE-WORLD SEDUCED BY MATERIAL WEALTH. THEN, WHEN A TRAGIC ACCIDENT DEPRIVED HIM OF HIS SURGICAL SKILLS, STEPHEN STRANGE DISCOVERED A SEPARATE REALITY, A HIGHER PLANE OF OCCULT FORCES IN ETERNAL CONFLICT. VOWING TO BE EARTH'S FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST MAGICAL MENACE, THE ERSTWHILE PHYSICIAN BECAME EARTH'S FOREMOST MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

DOCTOR STRANGE, SORCER[illegible]ME!

FOOTNOTE TO INFINITY

GREENWICH VILLAGE, NEW YORK CITY...

TO DOCTOR STRANGE!

UH... THANKS, FRIENDS.

BUT-- WHY TOAST ME?

I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING SPECIAL.

ROY & DANN THOMAS
WRITERS
DAN LAWLIS
PENCILER
ANDREW PEPOY
INKER
R. PARKER
LETTERER
GEORGE ROUSSOS
COLORIST
MIKE ROCKWITZ
EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF
* WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO JIM STARLIN, ADVISOR

NOTHING BUT HELP SAVE THE UNIVERSE FROM THANOS, THAT'S ALL, MY LOVE!*

MMM...

*IN THE JUST-CONCLUDED INFINITY GAUNTLET. --MIKE

BUT NO ONE IN THIS ROOM REMEMBERS THAT, CLEA, EXCEPT YOU AND A COUPLE OF OTHER SPELL-TOSSERS, SO WHY--?

OH, TO HOGGOTH WITH IT!

COME HERE, YOU!

A KISS WHILE LEVITATING! YOU DON'T SEE TOO MANY OF THOSE, DO YOU, WANDA?

NOT.. LATELY, TOPAZ.

AND HERE I'VE BEEN WASTING MY TIME HANGING AROUND STONEHENGE!

MORGANA... I'M SORRY YOU ONLY WOUND UP WITH STEPHEN'S VAMPIRIC SIBLING.

WE ARE FEELING INSECURE THIS EVENING, AREN'T WE, VIC?

WHY DON'T WE GO BACK TO MY LOFT SO WE CAN NECK... ...IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

YOU TALKED ME INTO IT.

VIC AND MORGANA... SNEAKING OUT... AND I'M BETTING I KNOW *WHY*.

YES... EVEN MY KID BROTHER, THE *UNDEAD*.

THEY'VE GOT TO LIVE THEIR *OWN* LIVES, STEPHEN.

GLAD YOU AND THE *SCARLET WITCH* COULD MAKE OUR LITTLE IMPROMPTU CELEBRATION, DRUID.

SO ARE WE, THOUGH WANDA'S DUE BACK IN L.A., AND I'VE GOT SOME RESEARCH TO DO IN *WALES*.

GIVE MY REGARDS TO *PROF. IOWERTH*, AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SWANSEA.

I'M CURIOUS TO KNOW IF *HE* RETAINS ANY MEMORY OF THE FACT THAT, FOR A LITTLE WHILE, *HALF* OF THE PEOPLE ON EARTH HAD LITERALLY *BLINKED OUT OF EXISTENCE*.

I'LL CHECK HIM OUT.

I THINK IT'S *GREAT* STEPHEN'S PROMISED TO *WORK* MORE WITH YOU, RINTRAH.

I MERELY REJOICE, SARA, THAT *YOU*, WONG, AND *IMEI* ARE SAFELY BACK.

"*BACK*"? WHY? DID WE ALL GO *SOMEWHERE* WE DON'T *KNOW* ABOUT?

UHHHH...

I MEANT FROM THE *INSTITUTE*, SARA.

YES! BACK FROM THE *INSTI-TUTE*!

ATTENTION, EVERYONE! IMEI AND I HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE.

WE HAVE SET OUR *WEDDING DATE*...

WE'LL BE MARRIED IN SIX MONTHS-- IN *TIBET*, THE LAND WHERE WE WERE BOTH BORN.

THAT'S *WONDERFUL*!

CLEA AND I WILL BE THERE-- ASSUMING WE'RE *INVITED*.

IT WOULD NOT BE A TRUE WEDDING *WITHOUT* YOU, MASTER.

PLEASE, DROP THE "*MASTER*" STUFF, AT LEAST FOR TONIGHT, ALL RIGHT?

NOW, ANY OBJECTION IF I KISS THE *BRIDE-TO-BE*?

NOT FROM *ME*, DOCTOR.

GOOD. I'M A BIT *RUSTY* AT THIS, BUT-- WHAT *IN OSHTUR'S NAME*--?

THAT *BLINDING LIGHT*--!

YOU KNOW A *BETTER* WAY TO MAKE AN ENTRANCE?

HELLO, *PIP.*

AND YOUR NAME, YOUNG LADY, IS--?

SAY HELLO TO GAMORA, DOC.

YOU HAVE ARRIVED JUST IN TIME TO JOIN OUR *FESTIVITIES,* FRIEND TROLL...

...MINUS YOUR *CIGAR,* OF COURSE.

SOMEHOW, DISCIPLE, FROM HIS FACIAL EXPRESSION, I *DON'T* THINK PIP CAME BACK TO EARTH TO *PARTY.*

MAYBE *NEXT* TIME.

RIGHT NOW, DOC, WE NEED YOUR *HELP*--

--TO FIND OUR BUDDY, *ADAM WARLOCK*--

--MAYBE EVEN TO **KILL** 'IM!

MOMENTS LATER, IN MY SANCTUM SANCTORUM...

ALL RIGHT, PIP--YOU GOT MY UNDIVIDED ATTENTION WITH YOUR VERBAL BOMBSHELL.

WE FIGURED.

NOW, SUPPOSE ONE OF YOU TELL ME WHY YOU DROPPED IT.

WE HAD TO MAKE SURE YOU'D SPEAK TO US IN PRIVATE, MAGICIAN--

--BUT WHAT THE MAGGOT HERE SAID IS ESSENTIALLY TRUE.

WARLOCK'S GOING MAD WITH POWER, DOC!

THAT'S WHAT I WAS AFRAID YOU'D SAY!

THE INFINITY GEMS HAVE MADE HIM A VIRTUAL GOD.

COMPARED TO THAT, EVEN BEING SORCERER SUPREME IS LIKE BEING A SCHOOL-CROSSING GUARD.

TROLL, ARE YOU SURE THIS GUY CAN HELP US?

DOC'S JUST BEING MODEST...

...I HOPE.

SO DO I.

WELL, I SUPPOSE WE'D BEST GET GOING.

JUST *GIVE* ME A MOMENT FIRST...

?

MISTRESS CLEA--DO WE *DARE*--?

I DO--IF YOU DON'T.

MASTER...?

NOK NOK

WE'RE GOING *IN* THERE!

IT, *UH*, DOESN'T SEEM AS IF ANYONE WILL TRY TO *PREVENT* US...!

FORTUNATE YOU TWO HITCHED A RIDE TO EARTH ON A *PSYCHIC WAVE* WHICH EMANATED FROM *WARLOCK* HIMSELF.

EVEN IF YOU COULDN'T RIDE IT *BACK* UNDER YOUR OWN POWER, IT WAS NO PROBLEM FOR MY SPELL TO *RETRACE* THAT WAVE--AND TAKE US *WITH* IT.

NOW, WE NEED ONLY *FIND* WARLOCK...

WELL, *ACTUALLY*, DOC--

--HE AIN'T ALL *THAT* HARD TO *LOCATE!*

BY THE HOARY HORDES OF HOGGOTH!

THAT'S THE *SOLAR SYSTEM* HE'S JUGGLING--

--*MY* SOLAR SYSTEM!

THOSE CAN'T BE *REAL* WORLDS-- *CAN* THEY? AND IF THEY *ARE*, HAVE THEY *SHRUNK* TO THE SIZE OF BASEBALLS--

-- OR HAVE *WE* ALL GROWN *MILLIONS OF MILES TALL?*

THE ANSWER IS (D), DOC--"*ALL OF THE ABOVE*"!

THIS WEEK, GOLDILOCKS IS OBSESSING ON HIS *REALITY GEM*-- SO HE CAN *HAVE* HIS SOLAR SYSTEM, AND *EAT* IT, TOO.

SURELY A HIGH-CLASS HOODOO LIKE YOU HASN'T FORGOTTEN THE SIX *INFINITY GEMS* HE GOT OFF OF *THANOS*:

REALITY... *TIME*... *SPACE*... *POWER*... THE *MIND*... AND THE *SOUL* -- COLLECT 'EM ALL!

AND ON AN *INTELLECTUAL* LEVEL, I'M AWARE OF THE *ABSOLUTE MASTERY* THEY GIVE HIM OVER THIS COSMOS. BUT, ON ANOTHER LEVEL, I GUESS IT'S JUST HARD TO ADMIT THAT, FOR *ONCE* IN MY LIFE...

... I MAY BE IN TOTALLY *OVER MY HEAD!*

STILL, I'VE GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO TEST THE WATERS.

HELLO, ADAM WARLOCK.

SO, MAGE, YOU HAVE ELECTED TO STOP SPEAKING *ABOUT* ME, AND BEGIN SPEAKING *TO* ME.

IN THAT CASE, I SHALL LET *NATURAL LAW* HOLD SWAY AGAIN--

--SO THAT *CENTRIFUGAL FORCE* MAY CARRY THE PLANETS--

--BACK TO THEIR BORING *ORBITS* AROUND AN EQUALLY BORING *SUN.*

NOW... SHALL WE *TALK*?

WARLOCK-- PIP AND I--

YOU NEEDN'T EXPLAIN. I KNEW OF YOUR MISSION EVEN BEFORE YOU *UNDERTOOK* IT.

YET YOU DIDN'T *STOP* THEM...

ONLY A *FOOL* STANDS ATHWART THE PATH OF THE *FOOLISH*.

THEY'RE YOUR *FRIENDS*. THEY'RE *CONCERNED* FOR YOU--AND, YES, FOR THE *UNIVERSE*.

I KNOW *THAT*, AS WELL.

BUT THEIR FEARS ARE *GROUNDLESS*, STRANGE.

WHAT, AFTER ALL, HAVE I DONE TO *WARRANT* THEIR ANXIETIES?

TOSS A FEW *SPHERES* ABOUT, THEN RETURN THEM TO THEIR RIGHTFUL PLACES UNHARMED?

HE'S GOT A *POINT*, YOU TWO.

WHAT'S HE DONE THAT ACTUALLY *ENDANGERS* ANYONE?

WELLLL... HOW ABOUT HIS RETROACTIVELY CREATING THE SO-CALLED "*GREAT ANNIHILATOR*"-- THAT THING THAT SPEWS OUT *PHOTONS* 340 LIGHT-YEARS FROM THE CENTER OF THE *MILKY WAY*? BEFORE *HE* MONKEYED WITH IT, IT WAS JUST AN ORDINARY, EVERY-DAY SOURCE OF *X-RAYS*.!

EARTH'S ASTROPHYSICISTS NEEDED *SOMETHING* TO KEEP THEM OCCUPIED.

CAN I BE FAULTED FOR *OBLIGING* THEM?

WHAT OF THOSE *GI-GANTIC FAKE DINOSAUR BONES* YOU'VE SEEDED IN WYOMING--SO BIG THEY'LL DWARF EVEN THOSE OF *SUPER-SAURUS* AND *ULTRASAURUS*, IF THEY'RE FOUND?

WHEN THEY'RE FOUND.

OH, *COME* NOW, GAMORA.

CAN'T A GOD PLAY AN OCCASIONAL *PRANK*?

I MUST ADMIT, WARLOCK--IF THAT'S ALL THEY CAN COME UP WITH, I MIGHT AS WELL BE ON MY *WAY*. SORRY TO HAVE BOTHERED YOU.

NONSENSE! NO HARM DONE. IT WAS NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

WHY DON'T YOU *STAY* A WHILE?

THANKS, BUT I REALLY SHOULD BE GETTING BACK.

LET THE POWER OF OMNIPOTENT OSHTUR RESTORE ME TO MY DOMICILE ON EARTH!

BY MUNNOPOR'S MOON!

I'M-- STILL HERE!

OF COURSE.

I ASKED YOU TO STAY, DIDN'T I?

SO--YOU STAYED.

MY APOLOGIES, PIP... GAMORA.

IF HE'S THIS WAY AFTER WEARING THE INFINITY GEMS FOR SO BRIEF A TIME...!

OF ALL EARTH'S MORTALS, STRANGE--

--PERHAPS NONE BUT YOU CAN FULLY APPRECIATE THE POWER I NOW WIELD.

THAT IS WHY I HAVE BEEN BIDING MY TIME, THUS FAR. BUT NOW, WITH THE PROPER AUDIENCE, I SHALL WORK MY ULTIMATE MIRACLE.

I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW SORRY I AM TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT.

WHAT IS IT?

GOODNESS!

PARDON ME?

I SHALL SEND OUT *EMANATIONS* WHICH, IN AN INSTANT, WILL MAKE EVERY SENTIENT BEING IN THE COSMOS *GOOD* AND *NOBLE!*

HUMAN--SKRULL--KREE--SHI'AR--I WILL DRAIN THEM ALL OF SELFISH *AMBITION*, OF COMPETITIVENESS---ALL THOSE BASE TRAITS WHICH HAVE EVER LED TO *WAR* AND *STRIFE!*

ARE YOU *MAD?!*

YOU *MEAN* WELL--BUT *WITHOUT* THOSE "BASE TRAITS," AS YOU CALL THEM, MOST RACES WOULD EITHER *PERISH* FROM SHEER APATHY--OR, EVEN SURVIVING, THEIR *LIVES* WILL BECOME DULL AND ULTIMATELY *MEANINGLESS.*

DON'T TAMPER WITH THE BALANCE OF WHAT YOU PERCEIVE AS *GOOD* AND *EVIL*, WARLOCK.

EVEN WITH THOSE GEMS, YOU'RE NOT UP TO IT.

NO ONE IS.

YOU *DISAPPOINT* ME, STRANGE.

I LET PIP AND GAMORA *SUMMON* YOU.

--SO *YOU* COULD BE HERE TO *WITNESS* -- AND *APPRECIATE.*

SOUNDS LIKE HE HAD US ON A *LONG LEASH*, PIPSQUEAK.

YOU'VE PROVED MY *POINT* FOR ME, WARLOCK.

TO BE *GOOD* IS NOT SIMPLY A SEQUENCE OF *ACTS.* IT INCLUDES THE ABILITY TO *CHOOSE.*

I WON'T LET YOU *DO* THIS!

ENOUGH!

YOU WILL *RELENT*, MAGICIAN, WHEN YOU SEE WHAT I *ACCOMPLISH*--BEGINNING *NOW!*

THEN, I, TOO, MUST... BEGIN.

YOUR AMULET OPENS.

DO YOU TRULY THINK I CAN BE HARMED EVEN BY THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO?

THE EYE IS MERELY CLEARING THE PATH--

-- FOR THAT WHICH WAS BEHIND IT!

ALL THOSE ARTIFACTS-- YOUR TALISMANS--?!

I KNEW YOU'D RECOGNIZE THEM, WARLOCK...

...THE ORB OF AGAMOTTO...

...THE PURPLE GEM...

...THE WAND OF WATOOMB...

I SHRANK THEM BEFORE I CAME, AND HID THEM BEHIND THE EYE, WHERE EVEN YOU WERE UNLIKELY TO DETECT THEM.

AND WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY WILL GAIN YOU?

I SHALL STILL SMASH YOU, IF I MUST.

DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU'VE GOT A CHANCE, DOC?

WE'LL SOON SEE, WON'T WE?

YOU STAND IN THE PATH OF VIRTUE TRIUMPHANT, STEPHEN STRANGE...

...A SITUATION WHICH CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE!

UHHHHHH...

PERHAPS A TASTE OF THE TIME GEM ALONE WILL SUFFICE TO CONVINCE YOU OF YOUR FOLLY.

BEHOLD EARTH'S FAR-FLUNG FUTURE.

IT'S--A DYING WORLD!

NOT DYING. DEAD.

THIS IS WHAT WILL BECOME OF IT, IF MY WILL BE NOT DONE.

MY ONLY RESPONSE IS TO READ A SPELL FROM THE BOOK OF THE VISHANTI.

I WILL SAY ONLY THAT IT RHYMES "THE ROVING RINGS OF RAGGADORR..."

...WITH "AS EVERYTHING WAS BEFORE!"

NOW, ADAM, WHAT SAY WE--?

NO!

YOU MAY NOT BE THE MAN OF STRAW COMPARED TO THE GEMS WHICH I THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE...

...BUT IF *TIME* WILL NOT MAKE YOU RECONSIDER YOUR OPPOSITION TO MY GLORIOUS SCHEME...

...PERHAPS THE VICISSITUDES OF *SPACE* WILL ACCOMPLISH THAT TASK!

GODS! WE'VE BEEN HURLED SO FAR--THAT EVEN THE *STARS* ARE ONLY A DISTANT *FLICKER!*

ARE WE GONNA TAKE THIS *LYIN' DOWN*, DOC?

NO, PIP.

WE ARE GOING TO USE THE *SCROLL OF WATOOMB*..

...TO SUMMON THE WONDROUS *WINDS OF WATOOMB* TO WAFT US *BACK!*

THAT *WATOOMB* GUY GOT *AROUND*, DIDN'T HE--IF HE *WAS* A GUY!

THE SPELL IS AN *EFFICACIOUS* ONE...

AND, WITHIN MOMENTS...

AGAIN?!

THEN, IF TIME AND SPACE HOLD NO TERRORS FOR YOU, LET US TRY A WHOLLY DIFFERENT--

--*REALITY!*

EVERYTHING-- *DISTORTED*-- *UNREAL!*

WARLOCK--*STOP*--*PLEASE*--BEFORE YOU DRIVE US *INSANE!*

EVERYTHING-- *DISTORTED*-- *UNREAL!*

DON'T WORRY, GAMORA...

THE EXPANDED ORB OF AGAMOTTO WILL CORRECT YOUR SENSES, AS EASILY AS PUTTING ON A PAIR OF GLASSES.

THE EYES-- THE EARS-- YES--

THESE ARE AS EASILY AUGMENTED AS TRICKED.

BUT HOW DO YOU REASON OUT A DEFENSE--

--WHEN REASON ITSELF SHIFTS ITS STANCE?

THE OPERATION WAS A SUCCESS, DR. STRANGE. YOUR PATIENT WANTS TO THANK YOU.

I CAN'T BE BOTHERED. JUST BE SURE HE PAYS HIS BILL.

WE GOT HERE JUST IN TIME, JOE! CALL AN AMBULANCE!

BUT--EARLIER, YOU REFUSED TO LET ME THANK YOU...

THAT WAS BEFORE THE ACCIDENT THAT ALMOST COST ME THE USE OF MY HANDS.

"ALMOST"? THAT WRECK DID END MY CAREER AS A SURGEON!

YOU'VE ALTERED MY FUTURE-- SO I NEVER BECOME THE ANCIENT ONE'S DISCIPLE--

--LET ALONE THE SORCERER SUPREME!

AND YET-- I GO ON SAVING LIVES-- ONLY ON A ONE-ON-ONE BASIS!

PERHAPS I SHOULD LAY DOWN THIS AWFUL BURDEN-- LET SOMEONE ELSE ASSUME IT--MAYBE ANTHONY DRUID.

PERHAPS...

NO, BY THE ETERNAL VISHANTI!

YOU'RE PLAYING TRICKS WITH MY MIND!

I HAVE A *HIGHER* PURPOSE--AN EVEN *NOBLER* ONE--

-- AND LET THE *EYE OF AGAMOTTO* NOW COME TO REST UPON MY BROW, REVEAL ANEW WHAT IT *IS!*

FOR EVERY *ONE* WHO MAY HAVE LIVED IF I HAD REMAINED A *SURGEON*--

--*UNTOLD MULTITUDES* WOULD HAVE PERISHED AT THE HANDS OF *DORMAMMU*--*MORDO*--*MEPHISTO*--

--EVEN *YOU*, ADAM WARLOCK!

SILENCE!

IF MY *MIND GEM* CANNOT SEDUCE YOU FROM YOUR PURPOSE, THEN I WILL STRIKE AT YOU WITH THE *ONLY* THING YOU SEEM TO *UNDERSTAND*--

--*POWER!*

THE *POWER GEM*--REPOSITORY OF SHEER, RAW MIGHT WHICH CAN LITERALLY DO ALMOST *ANYTHING*.

AGAINST IT, NONE OF MY VAUNTED TALISMANS COULD *STAND*...

BUT KNOWING IN ADVANCE THAT WARLOCK POSSESSED IT, I HAD ARRANGED FOR **ALL** MY TALISMANS TO ACT **TOGETHER** TO COUNTERACT IT...

FROM WAND AND SCROLLS OF WATOOMB... FROM BOOKS OF EIBON AND VISHANTI AND DARKHOLD...

FROM GEMS WHICH ARE PURPLE, AND GEMS WHICH ARE TWO-IN-ONE...

FROM THE TWIN TREASURES OF AGAMOTTO...

...AN OUTPOURING OF **POWER AGAINST POWER** WHICH WOULD LAY WASTE **MANY A WORLD**, IF ANY WERE NEAR AT HAND.

THE RESULT IS A MOMENTARY **EQUILIBRIUM** OF POWER...

...WHICH EVEN **I** KNOW, ALMOST AT ONCE, **CANNOT LONG ENDURE.**

AND WHEN I FALL--**ADAM WARLOCK**, SURRENDERING FOR THE MEREST MOMENT TO THE IRRATIONAL IMPULSES WHICH LURK IN **EVERY** BEING'S SOUL, WILL RENDER **MEANINGLESS** ALL HUMANITY'S PAST, AND INDEED ITS FUTURE.

BUT--WAIT!

I SPOKE OF--"EVERY BEING'S SOUL"!

WARLOCK STILL HAS NOT USED HIS SIXTH AND **FINAL** WEAPON--

--THE SOUL GEM!

IT IS THE INFINITY GEM MOST INTIMATELY LINKED WITH ADAM WARLOCK--

--AND THUS, PERHAPS, IT IS THE ONE-- IF ANY THERE BE--THROUGH WHICH I CAN POSSIBLY REACH HIS INNERMOST BEING!

IF I FAIL-- I FALL--

BUT I DON'T INTEND TO FAIL!

NO...

DEEP IN HIS SOUL, HE SEES NOT A LIE ABOUT HIS FUTURE--BUT THE TRUTH.

HE SEES HIMSELF VICTORIOUS OVER ME--

--DESTROYING ME--

--AS MUST CERTAINLY HAPPEN ANY MOMENT NOW.

HE SEES HIS OWN TRIUMPH-- COUNTLESS BILLIONS OF SENTIENT BEINGS--

--OF WILL, OF CHOICE, OF EVERYTHING THAT IS TRULY MORE THAN ANIMAL-- BOTH ON EARTH--

--AND ELSEWHERE, THROUGHOUT THE NEBULAS AND GALAXIES.

IF THIS RESULT IS TRULY WHAT WARLOCK WANTS--

-- WHY, THEN I WON'T BE ALIVE TO SEE IT.

BUT SOMEHOW--JUDGING BY THE CHANGE COMING OVER HIS FACE--

--I DON'T THINK IT IS.

AND, THANKS BE TO HOGGOTH, AGAMOTTO, AND OSHTUR--I'M RIGHT!

NO!

A SINGLE WORD--WHICH HE HAS SPOKEN SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE ON THIS DAY--

BUT THIS TIME, IT MAKES ALL AS IT WAS, BEFORE OUR BITTER COMBAT BEGAN.

I... APOLOGIZE, DOCTOR. I PRAY I DID NOT HURT YOU.

NOTHING A FEW YEARS IN TRACTION WON'T FIX UP.

AMUSING. IF EVEN EARTH'S MIGHTIEST WIZARD CAN HAVE A SENSE OF HUMOR, PERHAPS I SHOULD CULTIVATE ONE, AS WELL.

YOU HAVE MADE ME SEE THAT IT WILL TAKE GREAT CARE TO BE A GOD--

--WITHOUT DOING MUCH HARM IN THE NAME OF AN EVER-ELUSIVE, EVER-SHIFTING CONCEPT OF GOOD.

I SHALL TREAD FAR MORE CAREFULLY, FROM THIS HOUR FORWARD.

WE... REJOICE TO HEAR IT, WARLOCK.

LOOK, WE HOPE YOU DON'T THINK WE--

I OWE YOU MORE THAN MY LIFE, MY FRIENDS. I OWE YOU THE SOUL WHICH DR. STRANGE REMINDED ME I STILL POSSESS.

I HOPE I CAN RELY UPON YOU TO BE A PART OF MY MORAL COMPASS, IF I BEGIN TO STRAY AGAIN.

WE'LL DO ALL THAT WE CAN, WARLOCK.

THINK WE CAN KEEP HIM ON THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW, DOC?

WE CAN ONLY TRY PIP.

AND NOW, I SHALL NOT DETAIN YOU ANY LONGER, STRANGE, AS I WRONGLY DID BEFORE.

I KNOW YOU RISKED YOUR *LIFE* TO RESTORE SOME SENSE OF *COSMIC BALANCE* TO MY MIND.

WORSE YET--I RISKED ALL MY *TALISMANS*, ADAM WARLOCK.

IF I'D LOST THEM, I'D HAVE HAD TO ANSWER TO *AGAMOTTO* HIMSELF.

HAVE YOU EVER TRIED MAKING EXCUSES TO AN *ANGRY CATERPILLAR?*

MY FINAL ATTEMPT AT LEVITY IS LOST ON HIM, ALAS.

NOT THAT I BLAME HIM.

NOW, WITH A GESTURE, I GATHER MY TALISMANS ABOUT ME IN A *MYSTICAL SWIRL...*

...AND I MAKE FOR *HOME.*

BUT, ONCE OUT OF THE GOLDEN ONE'S SIGHT, I CAN'T HELP WORRYING ALOUD...

MAYBE I SHOULD GO BACK AND KEEP AN *EYE* ON WARLOCK FOR A WHILE, JUST IN CASE HE--

YOU NEED NOT BOTHER, STEPHEN STRANGE!

YOU!?

YES, I-- ETERNITY!

I DARED NOT INTERVENE WHILE YOU AND ADAM WARLOCK WERE LOCKED IN BATTLE, LEST THE FATES OF *WORLDS YET UNBORN* BE AFFECTED.

BUT NOW THAT YOUR CONTEST IS ENDED, KNOW YOU *THIS*, MAGE:

I, *MYSELF* MEAN TO TAKE POSSESSION OF THE *INFINITY GEMS*, FOR THE GOOD OF *ALL THAT IS!*

BUT, IF YOU EVEN *TRY*-- THE RESULTANT STRUGGLE MIGHT WELL CAUSE EVEN MORE DAMAGE THAN *ADAM WARLOCK* COULD INFLICT ON THE COSMOS! AND-- HOW DO YOU INTEND TO *GET* THE JEWELS?

I SHALL BRING HIM TO *TRIAL*, MORTAL. FAREWELLLLLL!

TRIAL? *WAIT!*

TOO LATE. THE ENTITY WHO IS THE *SENTIENT LIFE FORCE* OF THE UNIVERSE... IS GONE.

AND, I MUST CONFESS -- THAT'S *ONE* TRIAL WHERE I'D DEARLY LOVE TO BE A *FLY ON THE WALL.*

BUT JUST NOW...

...I'VE MORE DOWN-TO-EARTH MATTERS TO ATTEND TO.

MASTER!

I TOLD YOU HE WAS IN HERE, RINTRAH. WE JUST DIDN'T SEE HIM FOR A SECOND, THAT'S ALL.

IT MAY HAVE BEEN "*JUST A SECOND*" TO *YOU* TWO--

...BUT TO ME, IT SEEMED-- WELL, FRANKLY, LIKE AN *ETERNITY!*

STEPHEN-- YOUR *TALISMANS--!*

DON'T WORRY, DARLING...

...THEY EACH KNOW WHERE THEY *BELONG.*

MASTER-- WHAT ABOUT *WARLOCK?*

WELL...I FEEL A BIT *BETTER* ABOUT HIM THAN WHEN I LEFT.

I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S A BRILLIANT *INSIGHT*...OR IF I'M LIVING IN A *FOOL'S PARADISE.*

WELL, THAT'S A WORRY FOR... *ANOTHER* DAY.

EVEN A *SORCERER SUPREME* CAN'T SPEND HIS EVERY WAKING *MOMENT* WORRYING ABOUT THE FATE OF THE COSMOS.

NOW, SHALL WE REJOIN THE *PARTY* ALREADY IN *PROGRESS...?*

NEXT: **FRANKENSURFER!**

(WOULD WE LIE TO YOU?)

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From the WEEKLY WORLD INQUIRER

ADIOS, COSMOS!

HALF THE UNIVERSE DESTROYED - BY A MADMAN FROM SATURN!

Half the people in the universe were killed! By a madman from Saturn! *Daryll Smith,* an alfalfa farmer from Tupelo, Mississippi, was the only witness to the startling event. "It's true," said a sincere Smith, "His name is Thanos. He just snapped his fingers and poof! People started disappearing." How did the maniacal mad dog accomplish this? "He had this glove," Smith said honestly, "It was real pretty; all covered with gems. Must have been worth a lot. Thanos called it the 'Infinity Gauntlet.'" The gems were the Infinity Gems, six cosmic jewels of incredible power. The combined might of the gems gave Thanos the power of God.

THE EARTH DOOMED!

The demented demi-god knocked the Earth out of its orbit! A panicked populace stood in horror as the Earth was rocked by earthquakes, tornados, and volcanic eruptions. "It was terrible," said a distraught but credible Smith, "People screaming, buildings falling; knocked down the whole barn. What a mess that was. Hay and chickens everywhere. Of course, it was kinda funny seeing the cows out in the back forty tip over." A group of super heroes came together at the home of a *Stephen Strange* in Greenwich Village, New York. "I couldn't believe my eyes," said an unnamed on-the-scene source, "a whole bunch of them costumed types sitting around the living room. There was that *Silver Surfer* fella , *Thor,* the *Hulk, Iron Man, Captain America, Spider-Man, Quasar,* and that stocky guy with the long nails, *Wolverine.* But the one that stood out the most was this fella by the name of *Adam Warlock.* He was calling the shots. Had real nice hair."

Thanos with the "Infinity Gauntlet"

BYE-BYE, GOOD GUYS!

Led by Adam Warlock, the super-powered heroes attacked the psychotic supreme being. But the deranged deity brushed them aside like flies. "Boy, was Thanos ticked off," said a hysterical but reliable eyewitness, "He turned Thor into a giant Hummel. Then, he smashed him into a million pieces! He fried Quasar like a slab of bacon and turned Wolverine into a mass of furry jello. And then he got really mad! It was not a pretty sight. They never stood a chance."

Eros, Adam Warlock, and Nebula

THANOS'S GRANDDAUGHTER:"GO SUCK EGGS, GRANDPA!"

The crazed king of kings wannabe was brought down by his own great-granddaughter, whom he had trapped between life and death! "Her name was *Nebula,*" said a very consistent high-placed source who wished to remain anonymous. "The minute Thanos turned his back, she took that Infinity Thing away from him. All of a sudden, she had the power!". In perhaps the most startling development of all, the defeated former Gauntleteer joined forces with Warlock, the Silver Surfer, and Dr. Strange. According to a leading expert in the field, "Thanos tricked Nebula into turning back time 24 hours. The result of this was that everybody who had died was now alive again." The world's super heroes were all back home, on an unharmed Earth with no memory of what had happened.

(continued on next page)

READ IT! READ IT ! READ IT!

***MARVEL: 1991 – THE YEAR IN REVIEW* PARODY ARTICLE**

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QUASAR: "HE CUT OFF MY HANDS!"

BAD GUY BEATS QUASAR - KILLS EON!

Quasar's hands were cut off by an evil madman! Quasar, the Protector of the Universe, was powerless to stop the grisly act. A close friend of Quasar's said, "It's true, Maelstrom wanted the Quantum Bands. So, he cut off Quasar's hands to get them."

Maelstrom used the Quantum Bands to kill Eon, Quasar's mentor. "Eon was very old," said an expert on extraterrestrial beings, "possibly as old as creation itself. And, despite his 6-million-mile-wide body, was very weak. I believe that he was killed for his vast knowlege of time and space."

Maelstrom's next act was an attempt to destroy the universe. Said an anonymous astronomer, "Its true, Maelstrom created a giant black hole. Black holes absorb and destroy all matter. This hole was so big, it would have swallowed the entire universe."

In the end, Maelstrom was defeated by Quasar. Said an unnamed eyewitness, "It's true, Quasar saved the day. He threw Maelstrom into the black hole. It destroyed him."

It is unknown how Quasar survived the loss of his hands, or how he grew new ones. But as of this writing, he is alive, well, sporting a new costume, and the universe is safe again.

(continued from previous page)

THE EARTH-SHATTERING CONCLUSION!

The ever-vigilant Daryll Smith reports the startling events that then transpired: "Okay, so the Gauntlet thing started glowing brighter and brighter. Nebula screamed like she was on fire, and ripped it off. But, before anyone could reach the Gauntlet, it exploded into the figure of Adam Warlock! My guess is that somehow he gained control of the Gems from the inside and then set everything right." There are many unanswered questions in all of this. Who is Adam Warlock? Does he possess the power of the Infinity Gauntlet? Can he be trusted with this power? Whatever became of Thanos? Have we seen the last of him?

Thanos's Castle

STORIES NO ONE ELSE WILL PRINT!

RICK JONES: "I DIED AND MET THE GHOST OF ELVIS."

Musician, author, and professional sidekick Rick Jones died and met Elvis. "He looked great," said Jones, "just like he did in *Jailhouse Rock*. When asked what he and the King talked about, Jones replied, "Food, mostly. He wanted to know if the McLean Deluxe was as good as their regular burger. Then he asked me if I liked fried peanut butter and banana sandwiches. He also asked me if I had a Snickers bar on me." Did the King seem to mind being dead? "No," answered Jones, "but he did think it was funny that people thought he was still alive. He said, What did they think he's been doing for the last fourteen years, holding his breath?"

Jones was asked if the King had a message for all of his loyal fans, "Yeah," he said, "he did. He said he thinks they should all get a life. Then he said he wishes that all those Elvis impersonators would go and dress like Carmen Miranda and leave him alone. The last thing he said was that in hindsight, *Viva Las Vegas* probably wasn't a good career move." How exactly did Jones die and come back? "I don't really know," said Jones, "I was at a show when all of a sudden half the people in the audience started to disappear. Before I knew what was happening, I disappeared too. Then I just reappeared. I know it all sounds a little weird, but after you've been to the Negative Zone and back, you sort of get used to this kind of stuff."

— *Matthew Morra*

***SILVER SURFER: REBIRTH OF THANOS TPB* (1ST EDITION, 1993) COVER** BY RON LIM & TOM VINCENT

***INFINITY GAUNTLET TPB* (1ST PRINTING, 1992) COVER** BY JIM STARLIN & TOM VINCENT

INFINITY GAUNTLET TPB (2ND PRINTING, 1999) COVER BY JIM STARLIN & AL MILGROM

***THANOS QUEST* ONE-SHOT (2ND EDITION, 2012) COVER** BY ANDY PARK

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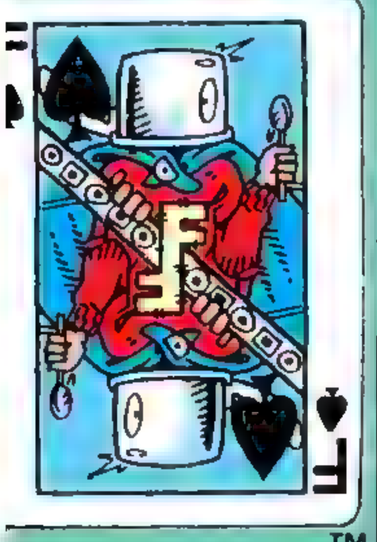

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THE THANOS QUEST™

Ever since his creation in 1973, Thanos has always been one of Marvel's most popular villains. Yet the character has appeared in only three major storylines to date, all of them written by his creator, Jim Starlin.

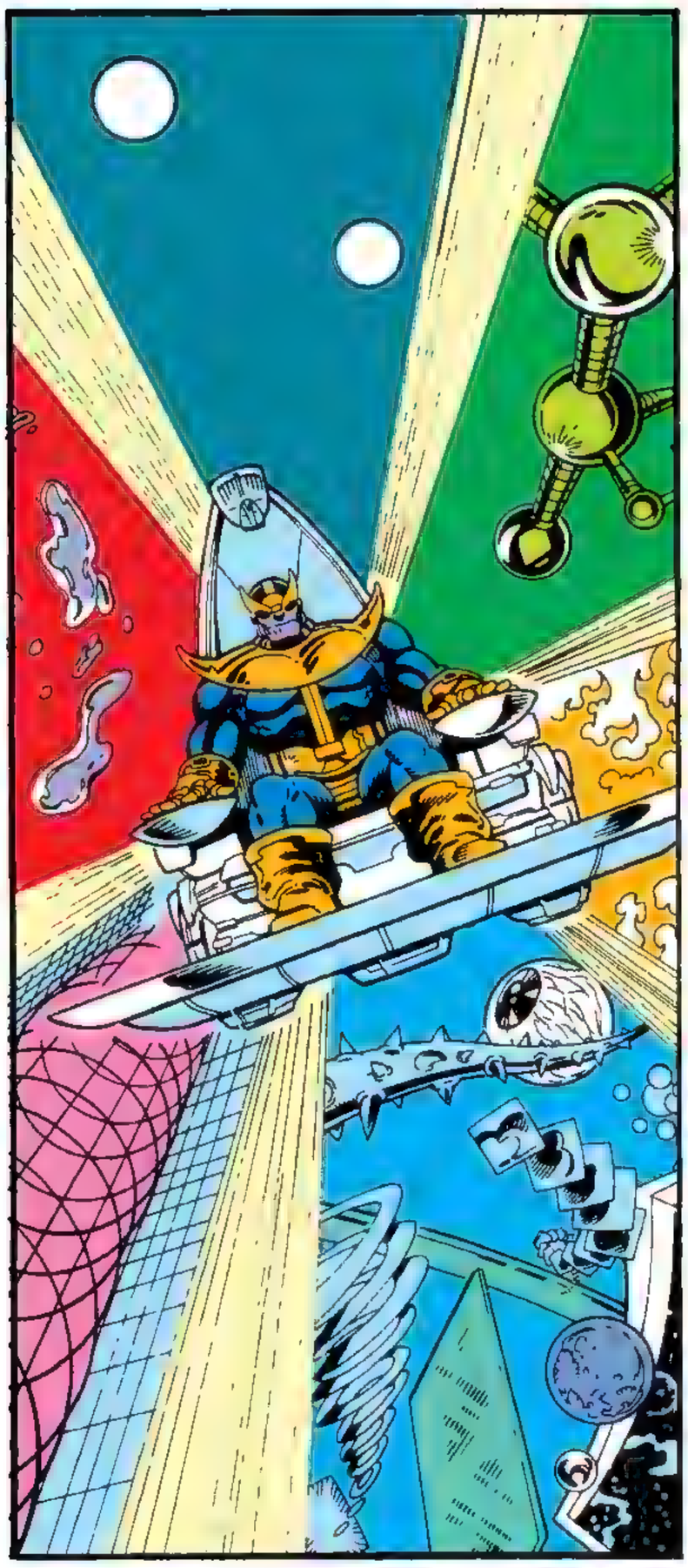
Recently Jim returned Thanos to the Marvel Universe in a big way. Thanos has become a major antagonist for the Silver Surfer, and will soon appear in his own two-issue limited series entitled THANOS QUEST. THANOS QUEST, which begins in June, is drawn by Jim's SILVER SURFER collaborator, Ron Lim. There are also plans for a major cosmic crossover starring Thanos in the not-too-distant future.

When THANOS QUEST begins, Thanos has been resurrected by death, a force he is in love with. Death has brought Thanos back to even the balance between living and dead creatures in the universe. Death wants Thanos to destroy half of the life in the universe. To do this, Thanos must gather together all of the six soul gems, which are held by the mysterious In-Betweener and the five elders of the universe.

Each of the soul gems has a different attribute. Probably the best known of the gems is the one once worn by Adam Warlock. Warlock currently lives peacefully inside his gem. It was Warlock, True Believers will remember, who turned Thanos into stone, back in the now-classic AVENGERS ANNUAL number seven.

Since then, the villain has appeared only once, in Starlin's DEATH OF CAPTAIN MARVEL Graphic Novel, where Thanos, along with death, escorted Captain Marvel from the land of the living.

Jim says that Thanos is not like the normal super hero or super-villain. "He doesn't collect the soul gems in the usual manner, by going toe to toe with each of the elders. Instead, he cheats, he tricks them, he connives," Jim said.



There's an almost parental bond between Jim and the demi-god he created. "In my association with Marvel, a lot of people think of Warlock or Captain Marvel, but the best thing I've ever done is Thanos," Jim said. "He's my baby. I created him, and so far I've been the only one to run with him."

"Thanos is a multi-leveled character in a lot of ways," he said. "He spins a lot of plots and schemes, and he has them work out. He's a metaphor for death, the ultimate nihilist. Unstoppable basically."

And in THANOS QUEST, Jim says that readers will see a "more tender side of Thanos." "There's a good side to everyone, whether they're a lunatic or a cosmic villain. We can show that good side, and at the same time, tell a rousing good story with a lot of action."

Twice before, Thanos has been thwarted before his plans seemed to come to a head. Once, Captain Marvel was able to destroy the Cosmic Cube, the source, then, of Thanos's power, after Thanos left it behind.

And in AVENGERS ANNUAL #7, when Thanos had gathered the six soul gems together into an awesome weapon which could snuff out stars, he allowed the Avengers to come aboard the control center where he kept the weapon.

Jim insists that Thanos's plans, however, have always worked out, and that Thanos had planned, somehow, the outcome of both showdowns. A multi-leveled character if there ever was one.

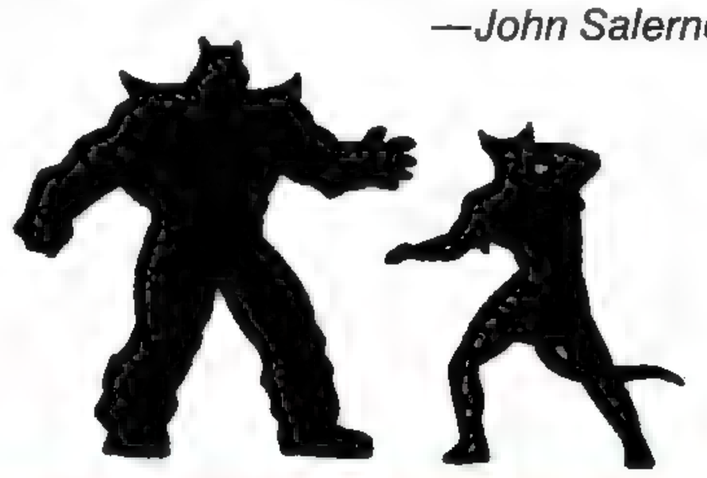
While an accomplished artist and writer, Jim is concentrating on writing at Marvel for the time being, though he would not count out drawing a story in the future. "Never say never," Jim said. He has, however, painted the covers of both issues of the THANOS QUEST mini series.

Jim said that he is happy to let Ron Lim pencil the stories he writes. "I am always pleased with what Ron puts down for what I script," he said. "It's almost never what I had pictured in my head when I wrote it, but I'm always pleased."

Jim is perhaps best known as the creator who killed off Captain Marvel and Warlock. He explains the recurring theme of death in his work with a quote from novelist Norman Mailer: "No true story begins with anything but death."

"We have characters who go off and pit their lives against their enemies every month," Jim said. Death is always a part of the story, though, few others approach it like Jim Starlin.

—John Salerno



HEMBECK'S PANEL EMPORIUM

FRED, ISN'T IT GETTING TO BE THAT TIME OF THE MONTH AGAIN? Y'KNOW, TO GET YOUR MARVEL AGE PAGE TOGETHER?

AW, NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT YET, LYNN. THIS ISSUE THEY'RE SPOTLIGHT-NG A NEW 2-ISSUE PRESTIGE FORMAT SERIES, THANOS QUEST. RON LIM IS HANDLING THE ART, BUT THE WRITING IS BEING DONE BY THE CREATOR OF THANOS--

--AND, JUST COINCIDENTALLY, MY CLOSE PERSONAL VOLLEYBALL BUDDY, JIM STARLIN.

I FIGURE I'LL JUST WAIT TILL THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT, CALL UP GOOD OL' JIM, GET THE REAL INSIDE SCOOP THAT I COULD NEVER OTHERWISE NORMALLY GET WITHOUT OUR, heh, SPECIAL BOND--

--AND THEN I'LL WHIP SOMETHING UP REAL QUICK, BING BANG BOOM!

NOW, WOULDJA PLEASE KEEP IT DOWN? I'M TRYING TO HEAR WHAT SORT OF ADVICE WARD HAS FOR THE BEAVER THIS TIME.

JIM STARLIN, huh? HASN'T HE BEEN KNOWN TO PULL QUITE A FEW PRACTICAL JOKES?

HA! HE SURE HAS! BOY, THOSE OTHER GUYS SURE ARE GULLIBLE!

THE "OTHER GUYS", huh? I SEEM TO RECALL A COSTUME PARTY WHERE JIM PUT ON A FULL HEAD MASK AND HAD YOU CONVINCED HE WAS A LONELY GUY FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY!

oh... ah... I KNEW IT WAS HIM ALL THE TIME. I WAS JUST PLAYING ALONG FOR--FOR EVERYONE ELSE'S ENJOYMENT! YEAH, THAT'S IT...

uh huh.

er, MAYBE I'D BETTER GO CALL HIM NOW, huh?..

OKAY, LET'S SEE HERE... THAT'S 5-5-5, C-O-S-M--

HIYA, JIMBO, OL BUDDY--HOW YA DOIN' TODAY, PAL?

hmm?

IT'S FRED.

HEMBECK.

H-E-M-B-E--

RIGHT, RIGHT--THE GUY WITH THE RATTY BEARD THAT CRASHED YOUR VOLLEYBALL GAME!? YUP, THE ONE YOU'RE ALWAYS SPIKING! heh, THAT'S ME!

LISTEN, JIM...

hmm?..

WELL, SURE I REMEMBER OUR AGREEMENT, BUT I THOUGHT THAT WAS ONLY WHEN WE WERE IN PUBLIC?..

Oh, ALL RIGHT, SURE--WHATEVER YOU SAY...

LISTEN, MISTER STARLIN, I WAS JUST CALLING--

hmm?..

OKAY, OKAY!...

LISTEN, MR. STARLIN, SIR, I WAS JUST CALLING BECAUSE MARVEL AGE HAS ASSIGNED ME TO COVER YOUR NEW SERIES, THANOS QUEST, AND I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO GIVE ME AN EXCLUSIVE INSIGH--

hmm?

YOU'VE CHANGED THE THRUST OF THE STORY COMPLETELY? THANOS'S BODY IS POSSESSED BY THE DISEMBODIED LIFE FORCE OF A... A COSMIC FASHION MODEL??

--WHO'S SEARCHING THE COSMOS--OTHERWISE KNOWN AS WHAT? THE INFINITE CLOSET?? ALL IN HOPES OF FINDING THE PERFECT OUTFIT FOR... FOR... THE REAL MISS UNIVERSE CONTEST??..

AND SO YOU'RE RETITLING THE SERIES... WHAT??

"THANOS DRESS"?

...THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT YOU SAID...

LOOK, JI--

er, MR. STARLIN--

SIR?

ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT JUST, WELL, IF YOU'LL PARDON THE EXPRESSION--

GOOFING ON ME?

Oh NO, MR. STARLIN, SIR, PLEASE DON'T--I DIDN'T MEAN TO MAKE IT APPEAR AS IF I WAS DOUBTING YO--YES, I SINCERELY DO APPRECIATE YOUR GIVING ME THIS EXCLUSIVE STORY--I'D HAVE TO BE AMONG MADMEN TO NOT SEE THE POTENTIAL OF THIS NEW PLO--YES, I'LL BE SURE TO GET DOWN EVERYTHING YOU TOLD M--

AND I JUST WANT TO SAY WHAT A PLEASURE IT WAS SPEAKING TO YOU WITHOUT THE SPECTER OF A VOLLEYBALL RUSHING DOWN MY THROA--

CLICK

ADIOS, AMIGO!

OBOY OBOY OBOY! AN EXCLUSIVE STORY! --WAIT'LL THE CHIEF SEES THIS MONTH'S STRIP! I'D BETTER GO GET IT ALL DOWN ON PAPER!

FOOL!

OBVIOUSLY, JIM--WHO, I SHOULD POINT OUT, IS MY GOOD BUDDY--HAS ONCE AGAIN SUCCEEDED IN TWISTING REALITY FOR A SIMPLE MINDED PATSY. ONLY IN A RIDICULOUS SETTING SUCH AS THIS WILL YOU FIND THE MIGHTY THANOS ATTIRED IN A DRESS!

...WHICH IS SOMEWHAT REGRETTABLE, AS THEY TELL ME BROAD SHOULDERS ARE BACK IN STYLE...

...AND THIS COLOR IS JUST DIVINE ON ME, WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?..

HEY, KIDS!! It's FRED HEMBECK and the MAD GOD of Death, Thanos in "A Mind Is A Terrible Thing To LOSE... Even For Just A Little While..."

ALL IN ALL, I'D SAY IT WENT PRETTY WELL, THANOS. YOU GOT TO PLUG YOUR LIMITED SERIES, The INFINITY GAUNTLET, AND I GOT A NICE INTERVIEW FOR MY SHOW...

STAGE ENTRANCE

...WELL, MAYBE "NICE" ISN'T THE RIGHT WORD, BUT..

ANYWAY, I REALLY DO APPRECIATE YOUR COMING ON...oh, AND, uh, THANKS FOR NOT KILLING ME, heh...

DON'T THINK IT DIDN'T TAKE A GREAT DEAL OF RESTRAINT NOT TO, BUT REALLY, WHAT GOOD WOULD IT HAVE DONE ME, WORM? DO YOU TRULY THINK THIS IS MY LAST LIMITED SERIES?!? NONSENSE! I'M SURE TO HAVE USE FOR YOU AGAIN.

LOOKING FORWARD TO IT, heh..

JUST THEN, AS THIS ODDEST OF COUPLES ARE ABOUT TO GO THEIR SEPERATE WAYS, AN IMMENSE BOLT OF LIGHTNING FILLS THE NIGHT SKY, ONLY TO COME CRASHING DOWN, AND---

SKRAKK

unhh

OH, MY. ARE THEY DEAD? GET REAL-- OF COURSE THEY'RE NOT DEAD! DO THEY HAVE SUPER SPEED? Uh uh. SORRY-- WRONG CHANNEL.

BAH!

..GOODNESS GRACIOUS...

NOPE, THAT LIGHTNING BOLT DIDN'T HARM OUR TWO PROTAGONISTS --IT MERELY SWITCHED THEIR PERSONALITIES!! HOW? HEY, LOOK PAL, THIS IS A COMIC BOOK, AND IN A COMIC BOOK, LIGHTNING BOLTS DO EXACTLY WHAT THEY'RE TOLD TO DO!..

STAGE ENTRANCE

YOU WANT PLAUSIBLE EXPLANATIONS, READ A SCIENCE TEXTBOOK, OKAY? Sneeesh...

...FROM THE MANTLE OF GODHOOD TO THIS!! WHAT A TRULY REVOLTING DEVELOPMENT FOR THA---

OW!

WATCH WHERE YOU ARE GOING, MISCREANT!!

OH, IT'S YOU, HEMBECK. LOOK, I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR BEING UPSET. I REALIZE I'VE BEEN DUCKING YOU AND YOUR SHOW FOR MONTHS NOW, BUT FRANKLY, BUD, I PLAIN DON'T NEED YOU OR YOUR PUBLICITY. WHY, heh, I DON'T EVEN NEED McFARLANE TO SELL!! (...THO I'M SURE IT WOULDN'T HURT!..)

I CARE LITTLE TO HEAR YOUR BOASTINGS, SMALL WEASELY ONE. LEAVE ME BE.

AH, A HEMBECK WITH FANGS, eh? SHOWING US YOUR DARK SIDE, FREDDO? heh...

"DARK SIDE"?..

FOOL!

NEVER

SAY "DARK SIDE" TO THANOS, MAD GOD OF DEATH, CRETIN!!

uh, WAITAMINNIT, I--

BANG ZOOM

..I WAS WRONG...

..I ALWAYS THOUGHT MORTON DOWNEY, JR. WAS THE TOUGHEST TALK SHOW HOST AROUND...

MEANWHILE..

..SIGH.. NO ONE EVER TAKES ME SERIOUSLY. I SUPPOSE THE ONLY WAY I'D EVER GET ANY RESPECT--

--WAS IF I CAPTURED A REALLY, REALLY POWERFUL BAD GUY, LIKE DORAMAMMU, the RED SKULL, OR--

THANOS?!?

eep.

BROTHER VOODOO?

WELL-- GOODBYE!

WAIT! I NEED YOUR HELP!

?

W-WHAT? you--you NEED MY HELP?..

yes.

FIRST OF ALL, I'M NOT THANOS. NOT REALLY. ACTUALLY, I'M FRED HEMBECK, TRAPPED IN THE BODY OF THANOS.

YOU'RE... FRED HEMBECK?

uh huh.

THE GUY WHO WOULDN'T HAVE ME ON HIS TV SHOW BECAUSE HE SAID NO ONE WAS INTERESTED IN SEEING ME?

WELL, heh, LOOK, I-I HAVE TO GO WHERE THE RATINGS ARE-- YOU UNDERSTAND THAT, DON'T YOU?

Oh, I UNDERSTAND ALL RIGHT. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE WIMPY CONSCIOUSNESS OF HEMBECK IS NOW INHABITING THE BIG TOUGH IMPOSING BODY OF THANOS.

..er..

..AND I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT NO ONE ELSE REALIZES THAT PARTICULAR LITTLE FACT... heh..

H-HEY! WHA-- WHAT ARE YA GONNA D-DO.?

CRASH POW

HEY LOOK, EVERYBODY!! PLEASE NOTE THAT I, BROTHER VOODOO, HAVE SUBDUED AND CAPTURED THE MIGHTY THANOS!! SOMEONE-- PLEASE! CALL THE AVENGERS!

AT THAT PRECISE MOMENT, THE FICKLE FINGER OF NATURE (NOT TO MENTION THE DELICATE MACHINATIONS OF THE PLOT) STRIKES NOT ONCE BUT TWICE, EFFECTIVELY REVERSING THE EFFECTS EFFECTED EARLIER.

SKWAPP

AND WOULDN'T YOU KNOW IT? WITHIN MERE MINUTES...

YOU'RE A MAN AFTER MY OWN HEART, BUD! WHAT SAY WE GO GET US SOME BREWSKIS AND MAYBE SCARE UP A LITTLE MORE... heh.. ACTION?

BAH! WHY NOT? AFTER ALL, PERHAPS THERE'S A LIMITED SERIES IN IT, OR AT LEAST A PRESTIGE FORMAT ONE SHOT...

COMING SOON?: "WOLVERINE and THANOS BEAT EVERYONE IN SIGHT TO A BLOODY PULP"!

..I'LL TELL YOU ONE THING...

...THAT'S ONE INTERVIEW I'M GONNA LET REGIS HANDLE....

Fred Hembeck character and the distinctive likeness thereof is a trademark of Fred Hembeck

Attention,True Believers!

Spring will herald the return to Marvel of one of Comic Fandom's most popular artists, George Perez! Fans of ol' Marvel last feasted on George's work way back in AVENGERS #201. Now George is back, teaming with the cosmically powered pen of Jim Starlin to bring Marveldom assembled a story bigger than the Hulk's toenail clippers (Now is that the gray Hulk or the green? I digress).

This May, Marvel proudly presents THE INFINITY GAUNTLET, a six-issue epic that would make Homer blush to behold!

In the last several months within the pages of that surfin' savior of the stratosphere, namely the SILVER SURFER, we have witnessed the capture of the Infinity Gems by the newly resurrected Thanos. With these six gems, Thanos has achieved the mantle of Supreme Being of the Universe, controlling space and time, reality and power, and the mind and soul.

Why, you ask?

Perhaps to dominate a dimension, pulverize a planet, or simply to make PEOPLE magazine's top ten list of most influencial figures of 1991? Au contraire, cosmic connoisseurs. Thanos's impetus is "love"...his love of Death!

To prove his love to the Deacon of Dying, Thanos has promised to destroy half the population of the universe, and he does that in the very first issue! With casualties this extreme it's a fair bet that certain members of the Marvel Universe are included in the body count. Who will die? Who will survive? Only Jim, George, and inker extraordinaire Joe Rubinstein know for sure (Jim wouldn't even tell me)!

The main players of this cosmic Hamlet are Thanos, the Silver Surfer, Death, Mephisto and a super surprise guest star who hasn't appeared in over ten years! And what story of ultimate power would be complete without an appearance by the Lord of Latveria, Doctor Doom, who figures prominently in the second and third issues. Of course, a saga this gargantuan can't help but affect other heroes of the Marvel Universe. Crossovers are planned for THE INCREDIBLE HULK (regardless of his color at the time), The AVENGERS and The WEST COAST AVENGERS, with other possible crossovers in the works.

Jim Starlin had never worked with George before, but found his enthusiasm to be boundless. One need only look at George's finished art to get an idea of his excitement about the project. According to Jim, George was drawing additional characters not directly called for in the script, cleverly rendering Alf on a background wall, or the White Tiger (the first hero George drew for Marvel) in a painting on the walls of Avengers Mansion. To overcome scheduling difficulties, George put several other projects on hold so that he could finish THE INFINITY GAUNTLET.

This Limited Series takes up after SILVER SURFER #50, a double-sized anniversary issue, which also happens to be the end of Jim's stint on the series. However, stand firm, fearless ones! Jim will begin a new cosmic series after INFINITY GAUNTLET, which will feature the aforementioned mystery guest star!

When the dust settles, THE INFINITY GAUNTLET will be the most talked about Limited Series of 1991. And what of Thanos? Rumor has it that his fate will be unlike that of any super-powered being—ever!

Sleep easy.

—Stephen Vrattos

MARVEL® NEWSWATCH

ANNOUNCING: THE INFINITY GAUNTLET!

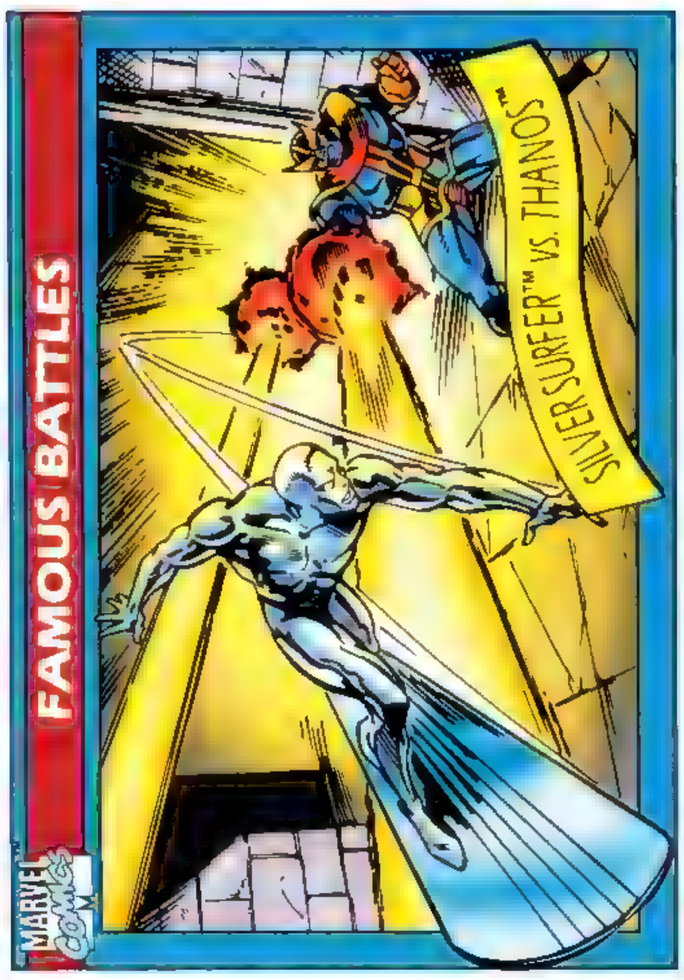
ITEM! Jim Starlin and Ron Lim's THANOS QUEST was one of the most spectacular cosmic epics of the year . . . but believe it or not, that was just a warm-up for what comes next! Starlin is already hard at work writing a follow-up cosmic limited series, one that will make THANOS QUEST look like a Sunday afternoon picnic!

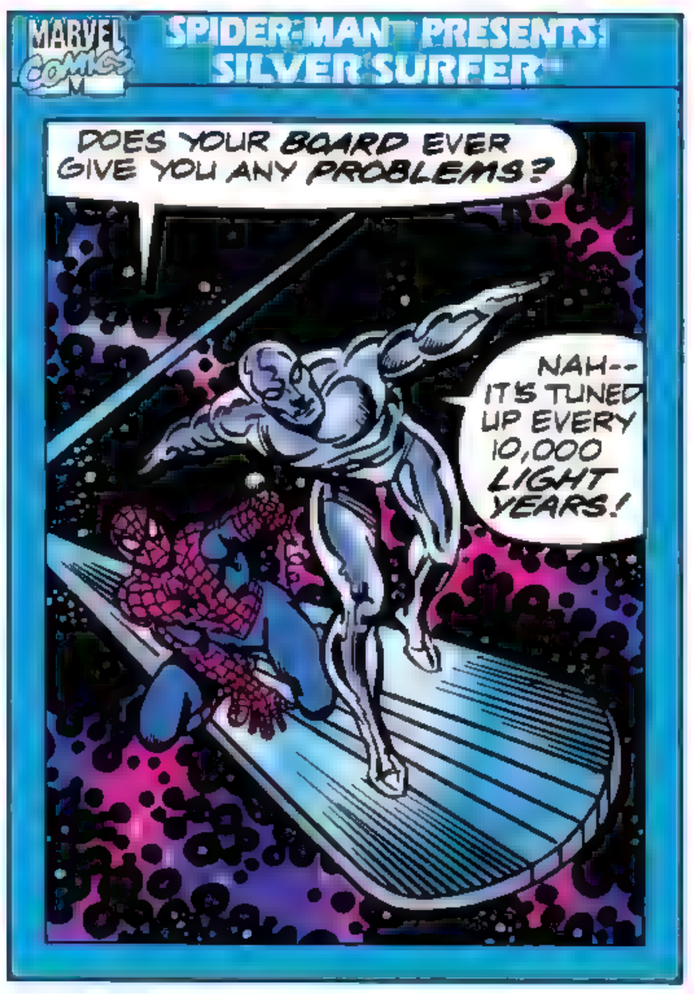
Starlin's next limited series is called THE INFINITY GAUNTLET, and wait till you see who we've got lined up to draw it. The artist is none other than fan-favorite George Perez, marking his triumphant return to Marvel. INFINITY GAUNTLET will be a six issue book-shelf format series guest-starring every character in the Marvel Universe.

It just may be the most cosmic epic of all time. Editor Craig Anderson promises INFINITY GAUNTLET will be "unlike anything ever seen before." INFINITY GAUNTLET will be the ultimate culmination of everything Thanos has been building up to over the past few months, both in the pages of THANOS QUEST and in the SILVER SURFER. We can't give away too much about the series yet, but perhaps Craig put it best when he said, "If you liked THANOS QUEST, that's just a prelude of the cosmic excitement to come."

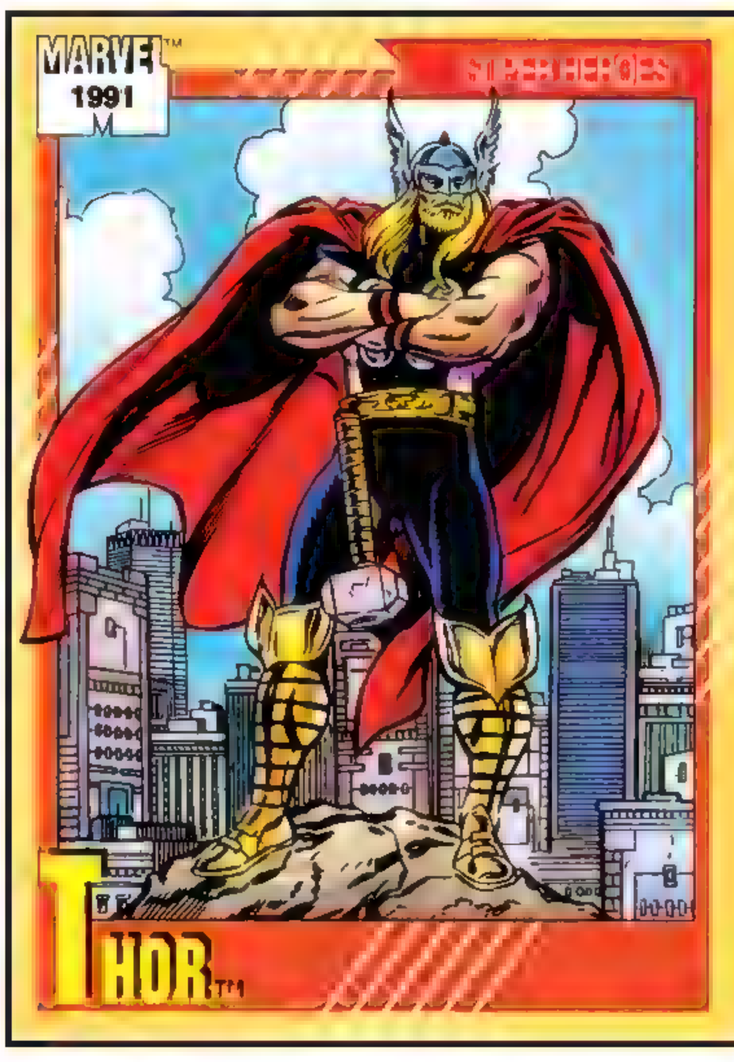
EARLY VERSION OF *INFINITY GAUNTLET #2* COVER ART, WITH TEMPORARY COLORING FOR PROMOTIONAL PURPOSES. NOTE THAT THOR'S COSTUME WAS ALTERED IN THE FINAL VERSION TO REFLECT THE ORIGINAL THOR'S REPLACEMENT BY ERIC MASTERSON.

EARLY VERSION OF *INFINITY GAUNTLET #3* COVER ART, WITH TEMPORARY COLORING FOR PROMOTIONAL PURPOSES. HULK, QUASAR, SCARLET WITCH, CYCLOPS AND THOR'S COSTUMES WERE ALTERED IN THE FINAL VERSION TO REFLECT THEIR THEN-CURRENT LOOKS.

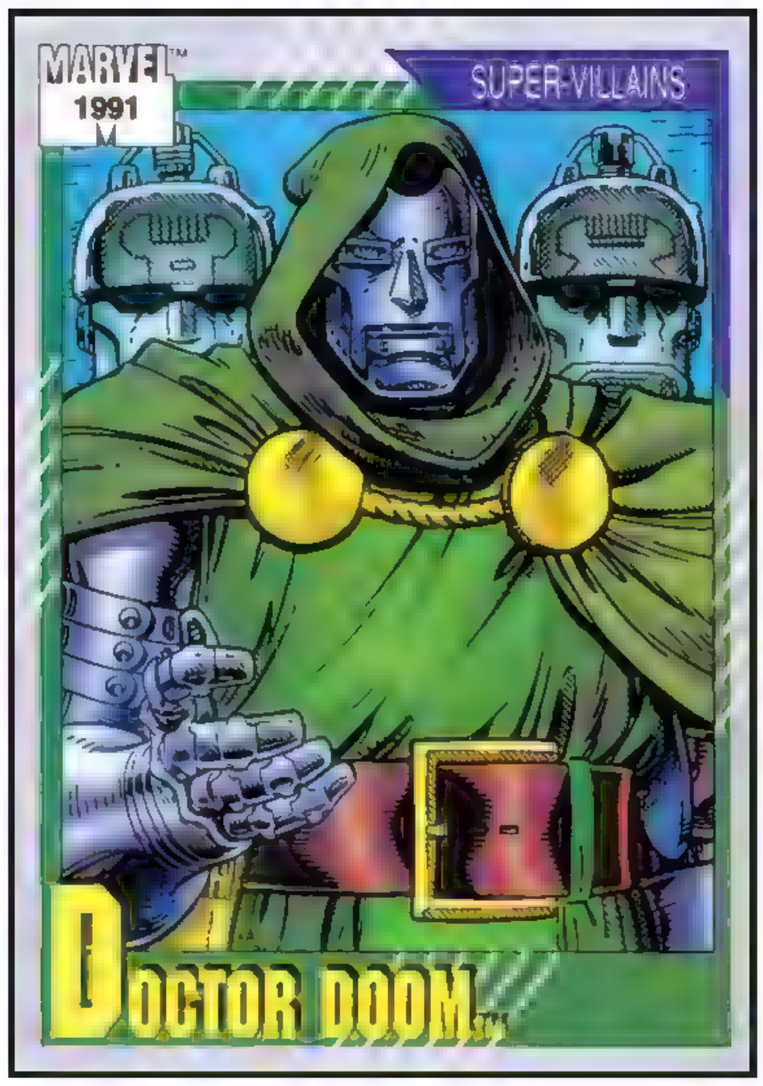


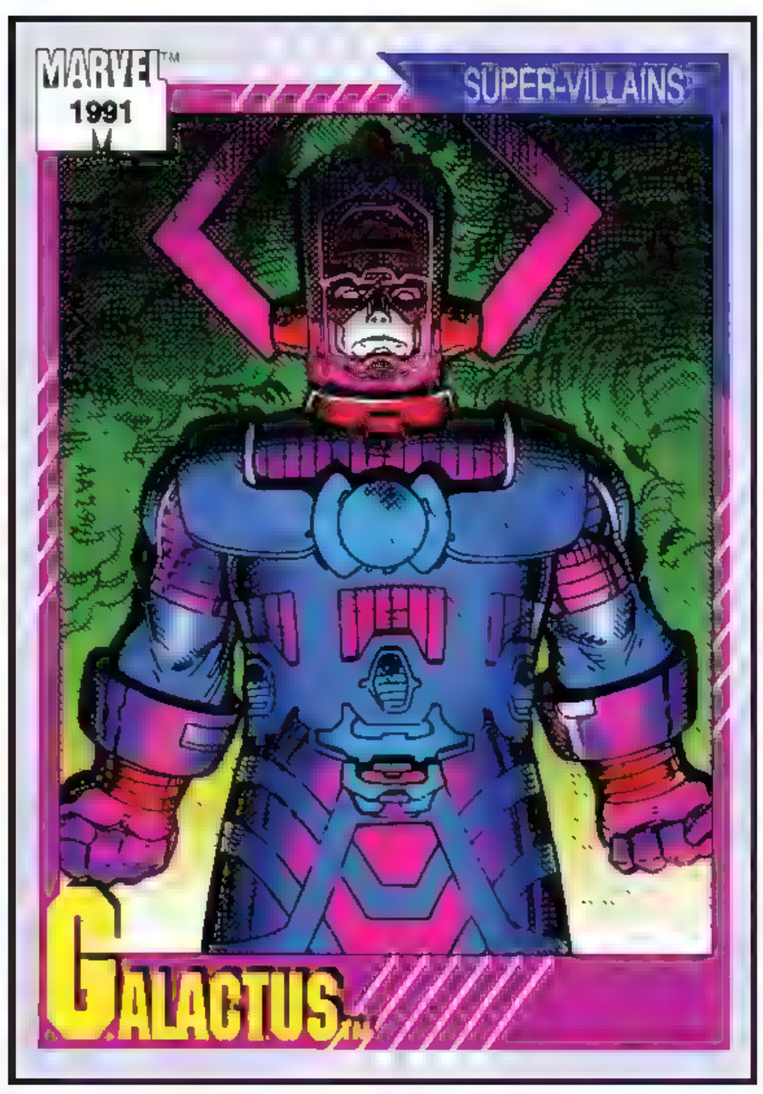


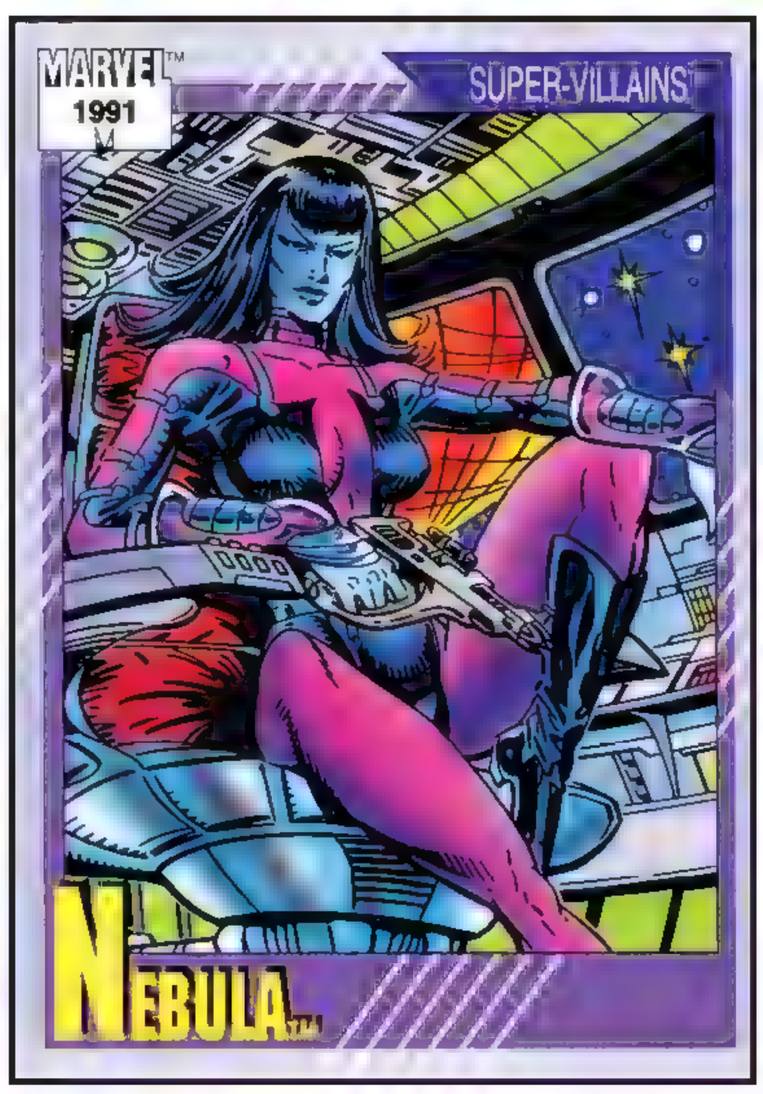
***MARVEL UNIVERSE SERIES I* (1990) TRADING-CARD ART**
BY TOM MORGAN, MARK BAGLEY & JOHN ROMITA SR.

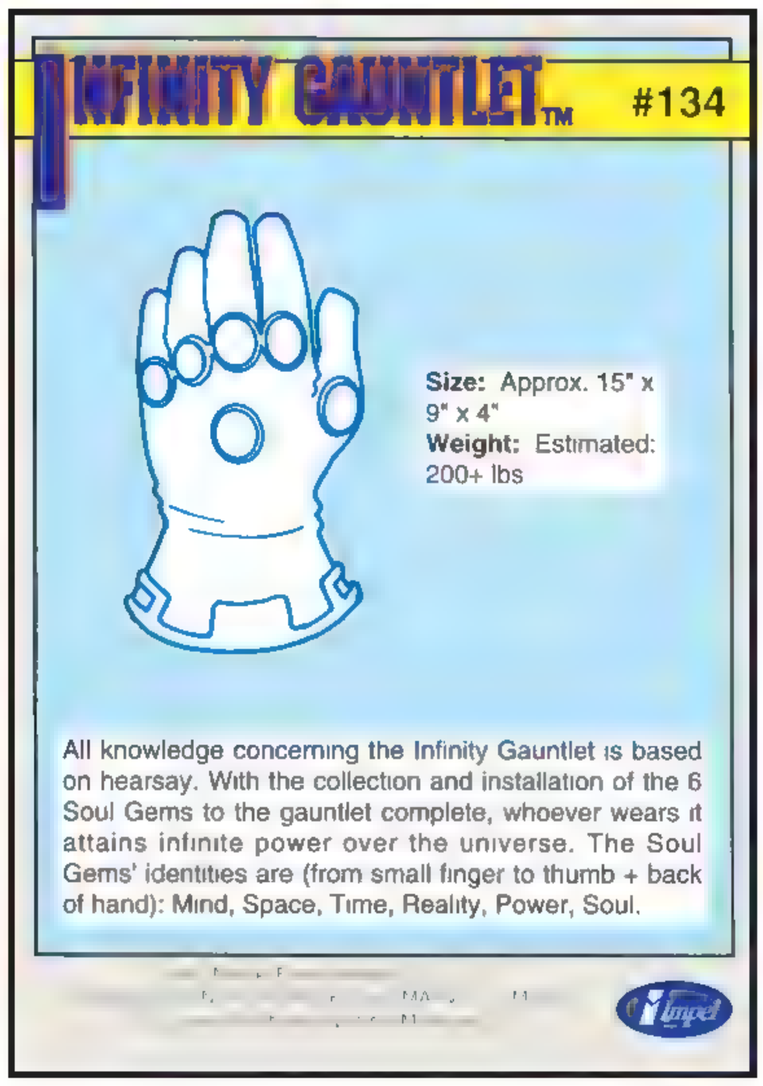


***MARVEL UNIVERSE SERIES II* (1991) TRADING-CARD ART** BY ARTHUR ADAMS & RON FRENZ

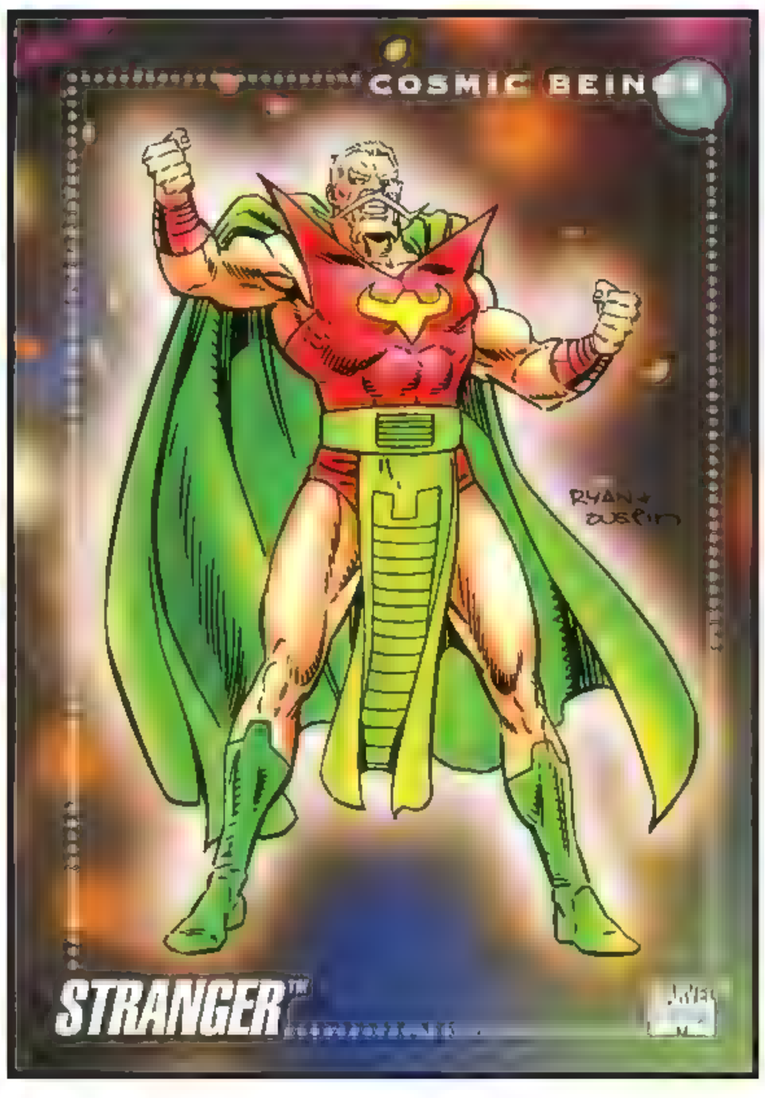








***MARVEL UNIVERSE SERIES II* (1991) TRADING-CARD ART**
BY ARTHUR ADAMS, PAUL RYAN, AND RON LIM & JIM SANDERS III



***MARVEL UNIVERSE SERIES III* (1992) TRADING-CARD ART**

BY RON LIM, TERRY AUSTIN, JIMMY PALMIOTTI & PAUL MOUNTS; RON FRENZ;
AND PAUL RYAN & TERRY AUSTIN

THE 2010 *AVENGERS & THE INFINITY GAUNTLET* MINISERIES RETOLD THE *INFINITY GAUNTLET* SAGA FOR A YOUNGER AUDIENCE.

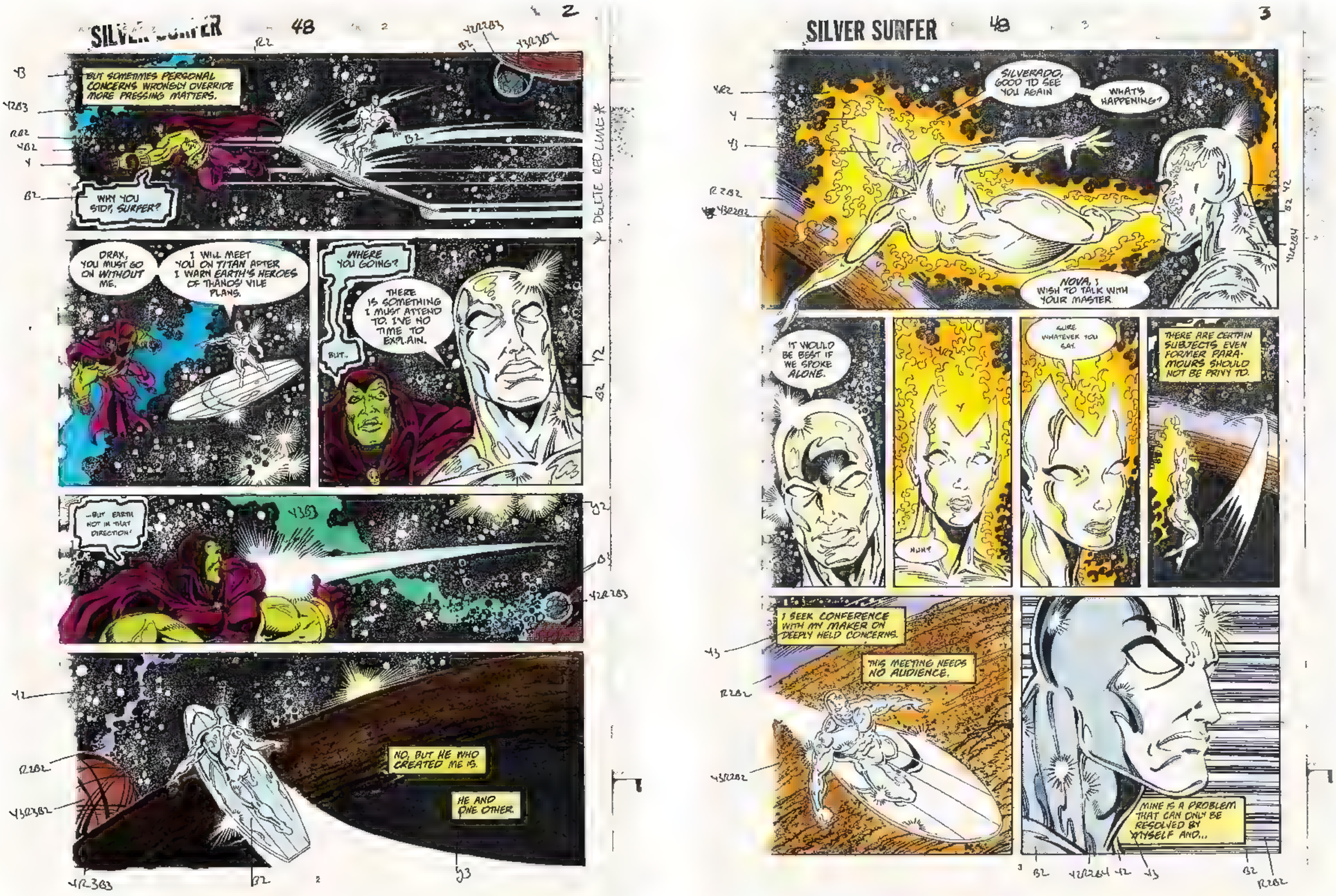
ISSUE #1 COVER
BY HUMBERTO RAMOS & EDGAR DELGADO

ISSUE #2 COVER BY RON LIM,
SANDU FLOREA & EDGAR DELGADO

ISSUE #3 COVER
BY TOM GRUMMETT & EDGAR DELGADO

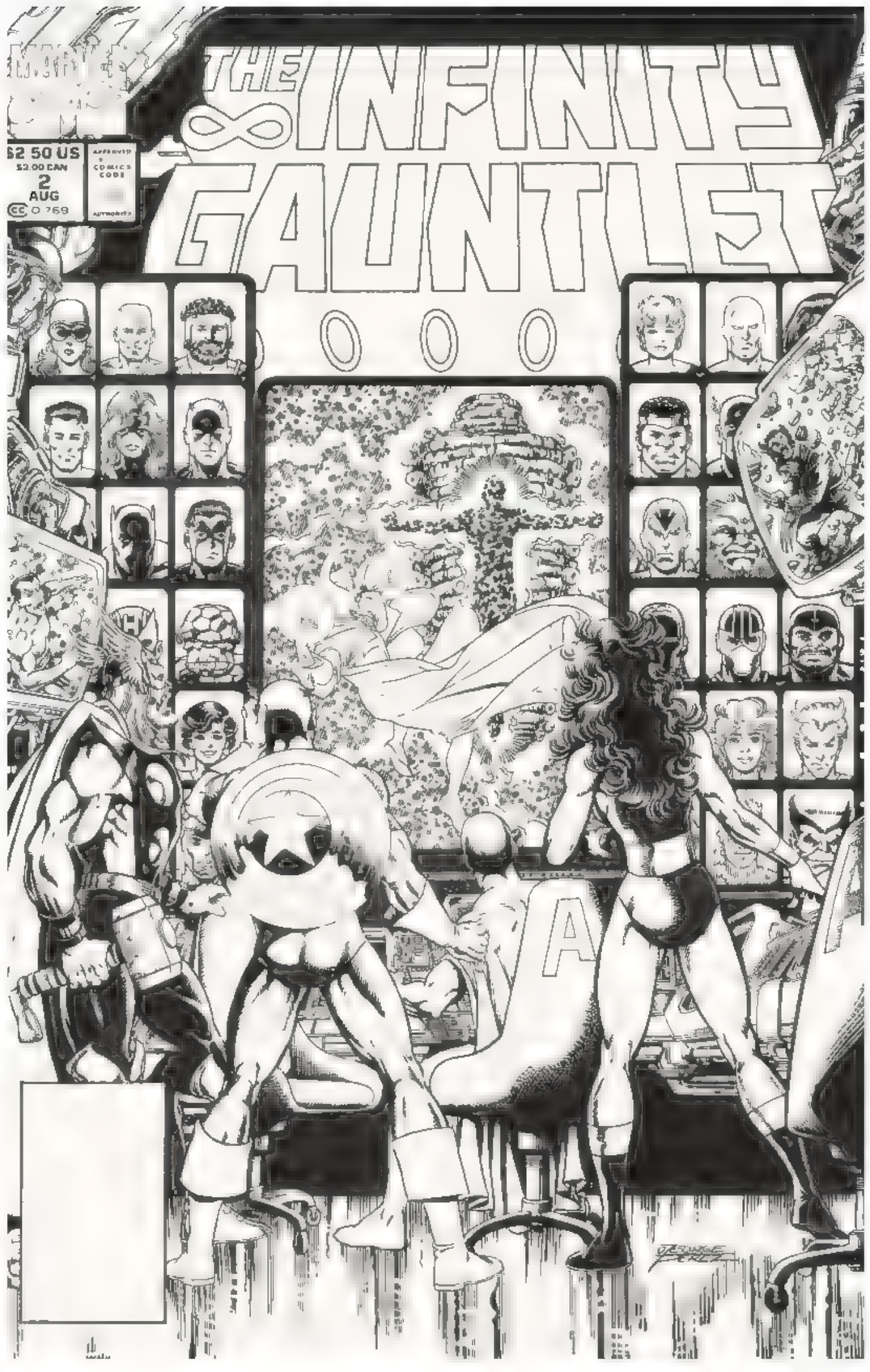
ISSUE #4 COVER
BY BRIAN CHURILLA & MICHELLE MADSEN

***THANOS QUEST #2* COVER** BY JIM STARLIN

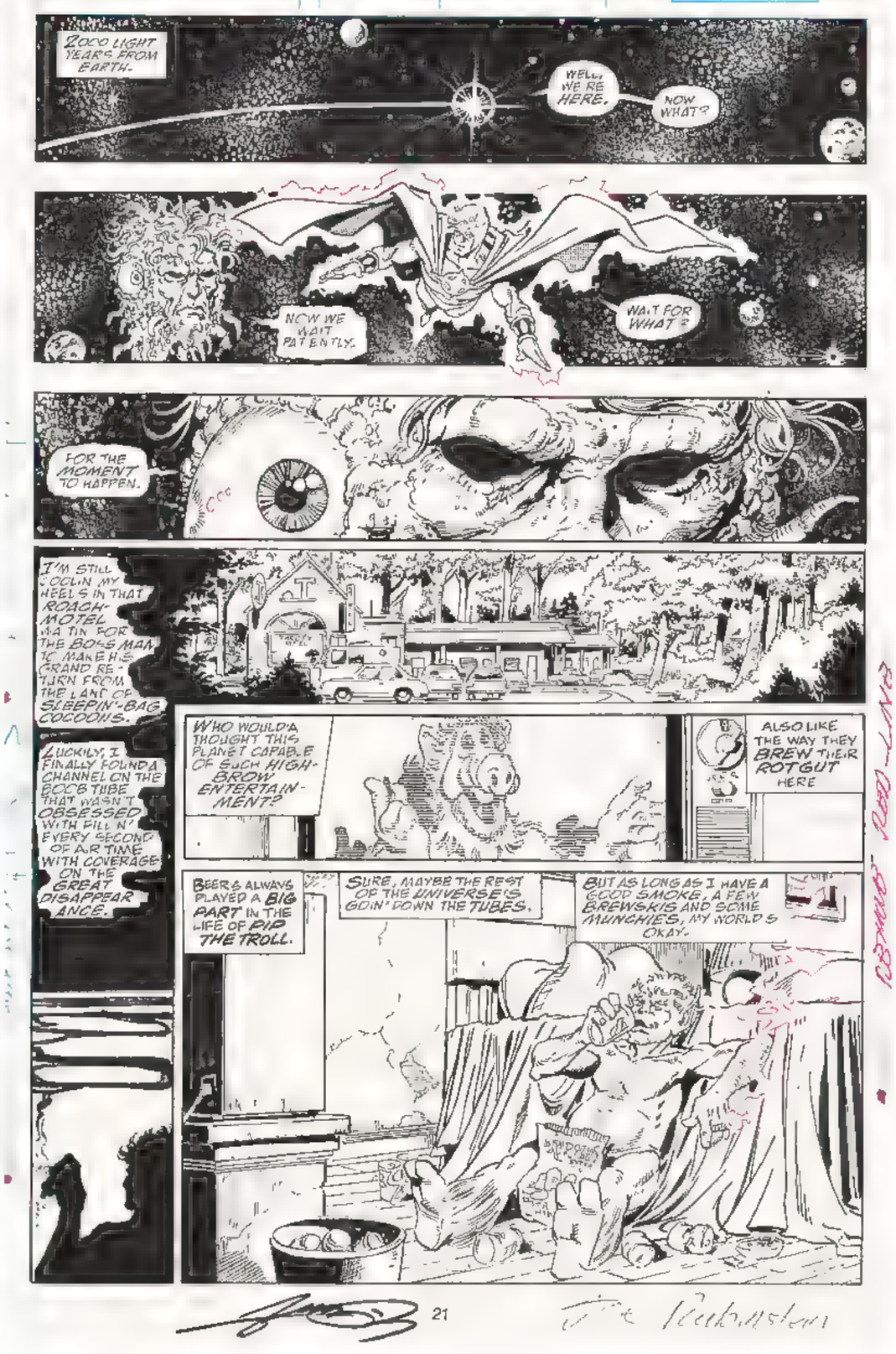


***SILVER SURFER #48*, PAGES 2-3 COLOR GUIDES** BY TOM VINCENT

***INFINITY GAUNTLET #1*, PAGE 14 ART**
BY GEORGE PÉREZ, JOSEF RUBINSTEIN
& TOM CHRISTOPHER



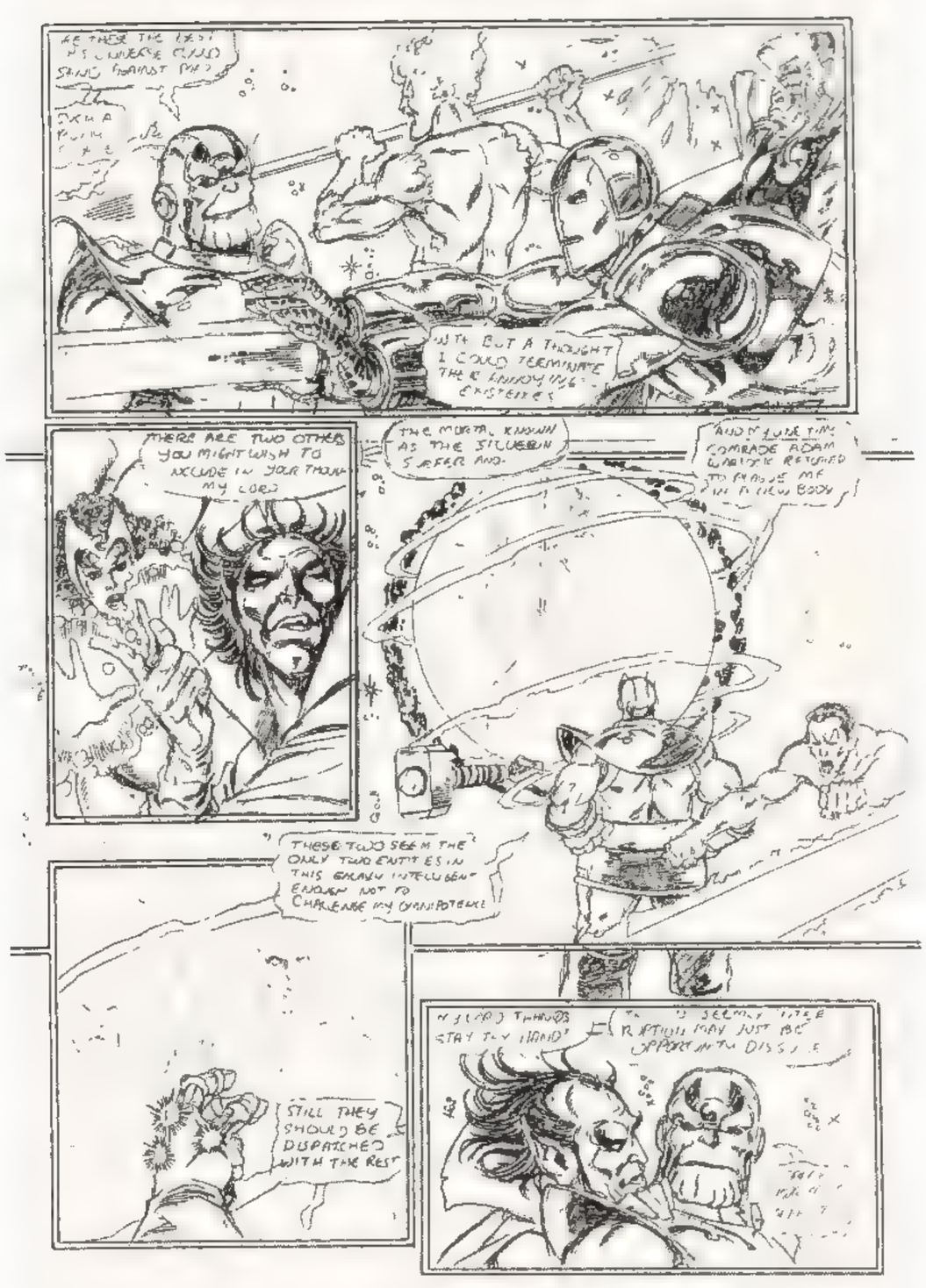
***INFINITY GAUNTLET #2* COVER ART**
BY GEORGE PÉREZ



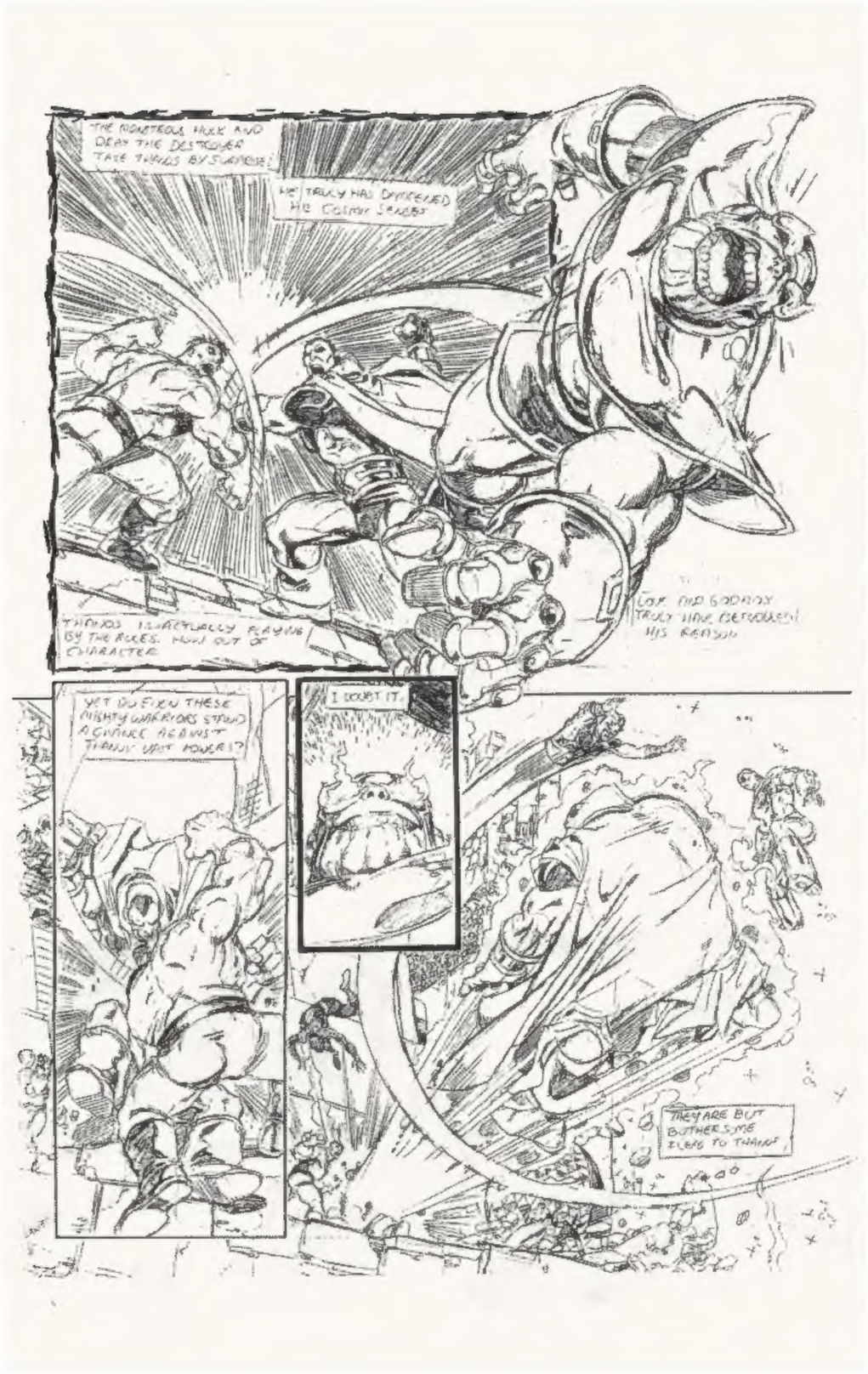
***INFINITY GAUNTLET #2*, PAGE 7 & 17 ART** BY GEORGE PÉREZ & JOSEF RUBINSTEIN

INFINITY GAUNTLET #2, PAGE 22 ART
BY GEORGE PÉREZ & JOSEF RUBINSTEIN

INFINITY GAUNTLET #3, PAGE 38 ART
BY GEORGE PÉREZ & JOSEF RUBINSTEIN



INFINITY GAUNTLET #4, PAGE 5 & 8 PENCILS BY GEORGE PÉREZ



INFINITY GAUNTLET #4, PAGE 9 PENCILS
BY GEORGE PÉREZ

DOCTOR STRANGE, SORCERER SUPREME #35, PAGE 19 ART BY DAN LAWLIS, SAM DELAROSA & DON HUDSON

INCREDIBLE HULK #385 COVER ART
BY DALE KEOWN

INCREDIBLE HULK #385, PAGE 17 ART
BY DALE KEOWN & MARK FARMER

SLEEPWALKER #7, PAGES 1, 17 & 18 ART BY BRET BLEVINS & MICHAEL BAIR

INFINITY GAUNTLET TPB COVER ART
BY JIM STARLIN

THANOS HOLDS THE INFINITY GEMS — AND RULES THE UNIVERSE!

Collecting *Silver Surfer (1987) #34–38, #40* and *#44–60; Thanos Quest #1–2; Infinity Gauntlet #1–6; Cloak & Dagger (1988) #18; Spider-Man (1990) #17; Incredible Hulk (1968) #383–385; Quasar #26–27; Sleepwalker #7;* and *Doctor Strange, Sorcerer Supreme #34–36* and material from *#31–33.*

MARVEL

Jack.T.Ripper

BLOODY MARVELOUS!